

Appendix E: Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study Process

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Introduction

The 1986 and 1987 forest plans for the Custer National Forest and the Gallatin National Forest conducted wild and scenic rivers eligibility studies. These studies and later plan amendments identified seven rivers on the Custer National Forest and five rivers on the Gallatin National Forest as eligible for wild and scenic rivers designation. Determinations for eligibility were made using the process outlined in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968. The final results of these studies were adopted as forest plan amendments to both forest plans.

In 2017, under the direction of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR Part 219), a new wild and scenic rivers eligibility study was conducted for the Custer Gallatin National Forest (Custer Gallatin NF). The 2017 eligibility study reviewed the earlier work from the original plans efforts and determined that an additional, more comprehensive study was required to fulfill the mandates set forth in the 2012 Planning Rule. In the 2017 study, all named and free flowing streams/rivers within the Custer Gallatin NF boundary were considered. The results of that comprehensive evaluation are included in this document.

The designation of eligible wild and scenic rivers pertains only to National Forest lands. Rivers and segments of rivers that pass through other ownerships were not considered in this study.

Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policy

Congress passed the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) for the purpose of preserving rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is recognized for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also allowing for their appropriate use and development.

During the forest planning process, whether for revision or initial development, the Forest Service must review all streams for their potential eligibility for designation in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) as directed under section 5(d)(1) the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (PL 90-542:16 USC 1271-1287, as amended).

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires the Forest Service to develop a planning rule under the principles of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA) which sets the process for the development and revision of land management plans. In 2012, 36 CFR Part 219 was passed to codify the direction in the NFMA and the MUSYA. This regulation is known as the 2012 Planning Rule. The 2012 Planning Rule's Final Directives (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80) provide additional guidance for conducting a wild and scenic rivers eligibility study during forest plan revision. The Custer Gallatin NF used this guidance to conduct the wild and scenic rivers eligibility study for the Forest.

Eligibility Process

Overview

On January 31, 2017 a wild and scenic rivers eligibility process paper was posted on the Custer Gallatin NF website which outlined the steps planned to conduct the Forest's study. The process paper included a list of 940 named rivers on the Forest, draft definitions for each Outstandingly Remarkable Value and maps and explanations of two proposed Regions of Comparisons. The online feedback period ended March 31, 2017 although any additional later feedback was still accepted. No changes were made to the

Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV) definitions, Regions of Comparison (ROC), or list of named rivers as a result of public feedback.

The following steps to an eligibility study were identified in the process paper.

Step 1: Identify free-flowing named streams/rivers.

Step 2: Identify regions of comparison.

Step 3: Develop definitions for identifying ORVs.

Step 4: Evaluate named streams/rivers and determine if they possess ORVs.

Step 5: Review level of development/determine classification (wild, scenic, or recreational)

Step 6: Develop forest plan management direction (to be included in the proposed action)

The eligibility study was conducted through an Interdisciplinary process. Much of the base information was developed from geographic information systems (GIS), such as the base maps, determining the number and location of all “named streams” and identifying the location of developments along or nearby these rivers and streams. Specific resource information about each river/stream was gathered from maps and professional knowledge provided by forest employees.

Public review and feedback on draft eligible rivers was invited from July 12, 2017 to August 12, 2017. Changes to the study were made as a result of this public input. See discussion of comments and resulting changing. The results of the eligibility process are documented for each eligible river and includes river data, description tables, and maps.

Step 1: Identify all free-flowing named streams

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems Act (WSRA) defines “free-flowing” as existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national system does not automatically disqualify it for designation, but future construction of such structures is not allowed. The USDA-USDI Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas (47 FR 39454-39461) state “the fact that a river segment may flow between large impoundments will not necessarily preclude its designation. Such segments may qualify if conditions within the segment meet the eligibility criteria.” A river is defined in the Act as “a flowing body of water or estuary, or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.”

“Free flowing” includes rivers with intermittent flows that are enough to maintain the ORV. The river doesn't have to be boatable or floatable, as long as the flow is enough to maintain the ORV.

All free-flowing and named rivers/streams identified on a U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map within the Custer Gallatin NF were identified and organized by geographic area (GA). The named streams were identified using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) flowline feature class from the NHD and the associated stream names from the geographic names information system (GNIS). Previously identified rivers/streams were reviewed to determine if changes to their free-flowing characteristics had changed since the earlier eligibility studies.

Through this review, it was determined that there are 940 named rivers/streams within the Custer Gallatin NF, and these named rivers/streams were studied for potential eligibility. A few un-named

tributaries were also analyzed that were important for fisheries or scenery ORVs. Forest field data was reviewed to determine if there were impoundments and the locations of dams or minor diversions. Ultimately no river was eliminated outright as not free-flowing, although impoundments noted could drive the level of classification, as described in Step 5.

Step 2: Identify the region of comparison for each resource

The region of comparison (ROC) is a geographic area or areas that provides the basis for meaningful comparative analysis of potentially eligible rivers. The Forest Service identifies the “region of comparison,” for each outstandingly remarkable value. The region of comparison may vary for different rivers or categories of outstandingly remarkable values and thus, multiple regions of comparison may be used to evaluate one river. A region of comparison should be scaled at an appropriate level for the type of river value being evaluated.

For example, for one river, the appropriate region of comparison for scenic values may be an entire National Forest, while for cultural values it may be the portion of the State in which the river is located. The Forest Service may conclude that a single region of comparison can encompass the evaluation of outstanding remarkable values. Acknowledging the diversity across the Custer Gallatin NF, two separate regions of comparison, for all the ORVs, are being utilized for the west and east sides of the Forest. Figure 1.

Western ROC: Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains

The geographic region of comparison to evaluate eligibility of rivers in the Madison, Gallatin, Henrys Lake, Bridger/Bangtail, Crazy, Absaroka, Beartooth, and Pryor Mountain Ranges is the Greater Yellowstone Area, as defined by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, extending to and including the entire Pryor Mountain range. This Greater Yellowstone Area boundary is predefined, used by the Forest Service as a Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee member, and is based on ecological and social considerations. The region has been well-studied for ecological as well as social/economic conditions, giving a wealth of data to use for comparison of outstandingly remarkable values.

The Pryor Mountains are included in this region of comparison rather than the eastern region because the mountainous terrain is more similar to the Greater Yellowstone Area than to lands further east.

Eastern ROC: Greater East Zone

There is no pre-defined, existing geographic area on the east side of the plan area that is comparable to the Greater Yellowstone Area for the west side. Therefore, an area was defined starting with fifth code hydrologic (watershed drainages) units (HUC) surrounding the Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts. Fifth code hydrologic units are quite large, and the area produced by combining fifth-code HUCs for the eastern districts includes relatively large mountain ranges, such as the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming and the Black Hills in South Dakota. Custer Gallatin NF lands in the Ashland and Sioux Districts are typically represented by gentle, rolling pine-savanna landscapes interspersed with woody draws and badlands, as opposed to the mountainous terrain found in the Bighorns and Black Hills. Therefore, the mountainous terrain is excluded from the 5th-code HUCs surrounding the Ashland and Sioux Districts in the Greater East Zone region of comparison.

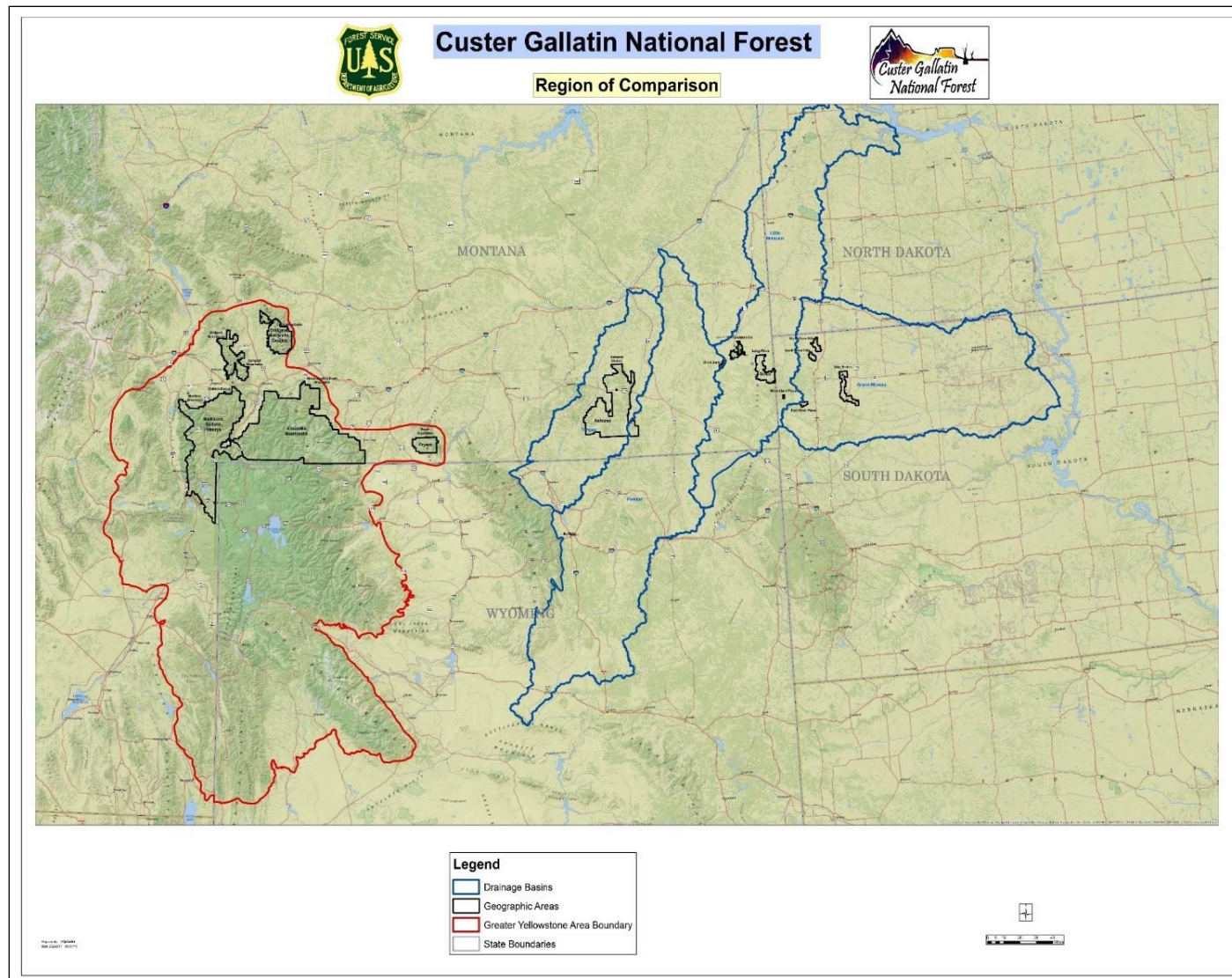


Figure E-1. Regions of comparison

Step 3: Develop evaluation criteria to identify ORVs

The Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act establishes a set of categories for determining the ORVs for resource areas. The Forest Service has further established baseline criteria to foster greater consistency within the agency and with other federal river-administering agencies in evaluating eligibility under Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 82.14a. The evaluation criteria set minimum thresholds in the establishment of each ORV. The criteria within the resource category may be modified and additional criteria may be included to make them more meaningful in the area of comparison.

The evaluation criteria for scenery, recreation, geology, fish populations and habitat, wildlife populations and habitat, historic and cultural resources, and other natural river related values (botany) are outlined below.

Scenery (from the Forest Service Manual). Landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. Additional factors, such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over different parts of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor. Considerations specific to the Custer Gallatin NF include the following factors.

Rivers that have outstandingly remarkable scenery would draw viewers from inside and outside the region of comparison. They would have some combination of a number of the following visual attributes, or only one or a few attributes where they are very unique or visually outstanding.

Rock, land and water forms

- Visually striking cliffs, canyons
- Visually strong and easily discernible examples of geologic forms and processes; visually distinctive strata layers or differential erosion
- Rock colors that contrast dramatically with the surrounding vegetation, adjacent rock or soil
- Exposed rocks and visually dominant rock expanses
- Dramatic topographic contrasts
- Unusually tall or spectacular waterfalls or awesomely powerful rapids surrounded by cliffs and boulders
- Striking juxtaposition of powerful whitewater and slow-moving calm sections
- Banks that exhibit a lot of variety in line and form
- Unusual and varied meanders, islands, braids and small ponds or lakes along the river

Vegetation

- Old 'character' trees that lean over or visually frame the water channel or are rooted among or on rocks along the water's edge
- Striking seasonal color and texture variations
- Strong juxtapositions of textures, colors and shapes, such as tall conifer stands intermixed with lush willow and grass meadows

- Explosions of wildflowers
- Striking displays of plants visible in the spray of waterfalls or dynamic rapids
- Visible historic and cultural features that contribute to the sense of place
- Historic and old primitive style cabins
- Remnants of historic activities such as old water wheels, historic mines, CCC structures
- Remnants of ranching activities such as old wood fences

The role of negative visual intrusions would also be considered based upon:

- Visual dominance over scenery ORVS due to size, reflectivity, brightness of contrasting colors
- Movement (such as vehicles)
- Duration, permanence and proximity to viewers within the river corridor
- Magnitude of view to those within the river corridor

Geology. The river corridor contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is unique, rare or exemplary within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example, or represent a unique, rare or exemplary combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

Fisheries. Fisheries values may be judged on the relative merits of fish populations, habitat, or a combination of the following factors.

Populations: The river is ecologically important for native aboriginal population (s) or assemblage (s) of native fish with high conservation value.

- An important stronghold for native fish assemblages relative to others in the region of comparison.
- Presence of genetically pure, or high conservation value, strains of native populations.
- A lack of non-native species that would threaten the native population.

Habitat: The river provides uniquely diverse and/or high quality habitat for native aboriginal population (s) or assemblage (s) compared to the region of comparison.

- The habitat represents a pristine ecosystem relative to others in the region of comparison.
- The habitat supports native aboriginal populations or assemblages of native fish with high conservation value.
- Habitat is secure from invasion of non-native species?

Recreation. Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events. Considerations may include some combination of the following factors.

Visitation

1. Visitation levels of high, medium, low
2. Span of visitation of global, national, regional or local.

Unique/outstanding/exemplary recreation opportunities such as premier fishing, renowned rapids, or nationally designated trails related to the river corridor.

River-related recreation opportunities: such as rivers or corridors used for premier whitewater opportunities or destination ice climbing.

Wildlife. Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions and may include the following factors.

Populations: The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species, or species of conservation concern.

Habitat: The river, or area within the river corridor, provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species, or species of conservation concern. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met, particularly where such habitats meet the year-round or important seasonal biological needs of the species.

Botanical (Other). Botanical values may be judged on the relative merits of either riparian populations or plant associations, or a combination of these conditions and may include the following factors.

Populations: The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of plant species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique due to their rarity based upon potential species of conservation concern that are ranked as globally imperiled or critically imperiled (G1, G2).

Habitat: The river, or area within the river corridor, provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat that are ranked as globally imperiled or critically imperiled (G1, G2).

Other botanical diversity factors are covered under scenic considerations.

Cultural/Historical. The river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of historic or pre-historic occupation or use by humans. Site or features on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) may be of particular significance. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting history or prehistory. Considerations may include some combination of the following factors.

History: Sites or features are associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region. A historic site or feature is in most cases fifty years old or older.

Prehistory: Sites of prehistoric human use or occupation may have unique characteristics or exemplary anthropological value such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living.

Traditional Use: Areas within the river corridor may have been used and may be currently used for traditional use, may have rare sacred purposes, or represent the origin or conflict of cultures.

Step 4: Evaluate named streams and determine if they are free-flowing and possess ORVs

The Forest Service systematically reviewed all 940 named and free-flowing streams and a number of additional unnamed streams for potential ORVs, comparing them to the evaluation criteria and the following requirements from the WSRA.

- Outstandingly remarkable values must be river related,
- Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river), but may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values,
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem, and/or
- Owe the location or existence to the presence of the river.

The Forest Service considered the area within one-quarter mile of the high water marks on both sides of a river, as well as other features outside this corridor, such as tributaries supporting rearing and spawning habitat, if their inclusion is essential for the protection of the river's ORVs. Additional factors considered for each stream were:

- Determine if resource values/attributes are unique, rare, or exemplary within the region of comparison where the river is located on the forest.
- Determine if a river may qualify for a given resource value based upon an aggregate of important values, no one of which would confer eligibility standing alone. For example, a series of unusual and distinctive river-related geologic features may together qualify a segment as exhibiting an “outstandingly remarkable geologic value” even though no one element meets the criteria alone.

The determination that a river area does or does not contain one or more ORVs is a professional judgment on the part the responsible official as informed by an interdisciplinary team, best available scientific information (BASI), and public participation. (FSH 1909.12 Ch82.17)

The Forest Service identified the streams with potential ORVs based on application of the evaluation criteria and comparison to other similar resources in the ROC. For each resource value the Forest Service determined if the values/attributes were unique, rare, or exemplary within the region of comparison.

The public review period from July 12 2017 through August 12, 2017, highlighted a number of additional streams and ORVs that the public felt should be considered. See discussion on response to public feedback.

Step 5: Classification of eligible streams

Once a watercourse has been determined eligible, the level of development needs to be reviewed to determine which preliminary classification category to apply to the entire river or segments of the river. The categories for consideration under the WSRA are wild, scenic, or recreational.

Potential classification should be based on the situation existing at the time of the study. It should not anticipate expected development or other changes along the river corridor; this is an aspect of evaluating suitability.

The WSRA states that “it is important to understand each criterion, but it is more important to understand their collective intent. Each river segment and its immediate environment should be considered as a unit. The basis for classification is the degree of naturalness, or stated negatively, the degree of evidence of man’s activity in the river area. Although each classification permits certain existing development, the criteria do not imply that additional inconsistent development is permitted in the future.”

Wild Rivers. Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic Rivers. Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational Rivers. Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some limited impoundment or diversion in the past.

The classification is described in the river description form for all potentially eligible rivers. During the public feedback phase, some of the tentative classifications were commented on and several changes were made. See discussion on response to public feedback. The factors in Table E-1 below were used to determine classification of river segments.

Eligible rivers may be divided into segments having differing classifications when the levels of human use and activity create different degrees of development within the study area. In cases where a river has one or more classifications, each river segment identified should be of sufficient length to warrant its own unique management. Regarding segment length; FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80.62 states that, “there is no minimum length of a segment, but segment length should be sufficient to enable protection of the outstandingly remarkable values if the area were managed, apart from other segments, as a wild, scenic, or recreational river”.

A number of initial river classifications were changed as a result of additional field verification and public comment and review. Classification of the individual river segments are described in the summary section for each river.

Table E-1. Classification criteria for wild, scenic, and recreational river areas

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Free of impoundment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Free of impoundment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some existing impoundment or diversion. ■ The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity. ■ The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. ■ A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. ■ Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. ■ The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. ■ The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. ■ Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. ■ The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. ■ Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. ■ May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Generally inaccessible except by trail. ■ No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accessible in places by road. ■ Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Readily accessible by road or railroad. ■ The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Meets, or exceeds criteria, or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish, and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists, or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists, or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.

Step 6: Develop management direction to be included in the proposed action

Rivers determined to be eligible must have certain interim protection measures. These protection measures apply until a decision is made on the future use of the river and the adjacent lands through an act of Congress or a determination that the river is not suitable. Along with the interim protective measures, additional statutory, regulatory, or policy requirements may apply if the study river is located within a wilderness area or other designated area. In case of conflict between the provisions of the WSRA and FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80, and the Wilderness Act and FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70, the more restrictive provisions applies.

The 2012 Planning Rule provides direction for the interim management of Forest Service identified eligible rivers/streams. This can be found in 36 CFR 219.10 (b, v).

(b) The plan must provide plan components, including standards and guidelines, to provide for:

(v) Protection of designed wild and scenic rivers as well as management of rivers found to be eligible or determined to be suitable for the National Wild and Scenic River system to protect the values that provide the basis for their suitability for inclusion in the system.

Site-specific projects and activities on National Forest System lands within eligible corridors may be authorized only where the project and activities are consistent with the following:

- The free-flowing character of the identified river is not adversely modified by the construction or development of stream impoundments, diversions, or other water resources projects.
- Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river are protected.
- Classification of an eligible river/stream on National Forest System lands must be maintained as inventoried (eligible) unless a suitability study is completed that recommends management other than the preliminary classification.

Agency identified study river protection continues unless a river is determined not suitable for designation. A suitability study will not be conducted during the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision.

Public Feedback on Wild and Scenic River Eligibility

The Forest Service invited public feedback on the draft eligible rivers from July 12, 2017 to August 12, 2017. The draft Eligible Rivers were displayed on the Forest Plan Revision's Storyboard web site. The Forest received thirty online comments from the storyboard web site, seven emails and six letters.

Most feedback mentioned specific rivers by name and offered either support for the draft findings of their eligibility, or a desire that they be added to the list. Many comments gave specific information on river segments and which ORVs they felt were contained in those areas. Some comments referred to which of the three classifications (Wild, Scenic, Recreational) had been tentatively assigned based on shoreline access or development. Some comments were opposed to any inclusion of any river as eligible under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Forest Service specialists considered the public information to determine if the rivers meet the criteria for free-flowing and contained one or more ORV as defined. Many commenters relayed that more rivers should have Wildlife as an ORV, mentioning river corridors with moose, elk, bison, grizzly bears, and big horn sheep. Because ORVs must be directly river-related and unique or exemplary in the Region of Comparison, the Forest Service did not find these additional wildlife species met the ORV definitions within our Regions of Comparisons.

The draft eligibility study found 1.75 miles of Bear Creek # 32 eligible for a Wildlife ORV. Commenters felt the entire length of Bear Creek should be found eligible. The Wildlife ORV is located in the 1.75 mile segment and not the entire length of the creek. Other comments mentioned various resources for Bear Creek which were evaluated but were not found to be an ORV for the remainder of the creek

Commenters requested adding a new ORV for “climate refugia” under the ORV heading of “Other” and proposed a list of rivers that met a definition of “climate refugia”. An accepted fisheries climate vulnerability model for this area (Isaak, et al*) finds many streams in the ROC that would be “climate refugia” and therefore would not meet a definition of outstandingly remarkable (unique, rare, or exemplary features ... conspicuous examples of these values, among the best representatives of these features, within a region or the nation). (*Isaak, D., M. Young, D. Nagel, D. Horan, and M. Groce. 2015. [The cold-water climate shield: Delineating refugia for preserving salmonid fishes through the 21st Century](#). Global Change Biology. 21:2540-2553.)

Many comments pointed out ORVs for scenery, recreational uses, geology, fisheries, and cultural values for various rivers. Each comment was evaluated per by the ORV definitions and Region of Comparison.

One river segment was added in response to public feedback. Middle Fork of Cabin Creek River #502 was added to the list of eligible rivers with a Fisheries ORV.

A review of roads, access and shoreline development was made where feedback concerned a change in the tentative classification. Changes were made to two segments’ classifications in response to public feedback.

Bear Creek #32: initial tentative classification of Recreational has been changed to Scenic based on nearby administrative use roads.

Cave Creek #123: initial tentative classification of Scenic has been changed to Wild based on lack of roads in the ½ mile corridor.

Proposed Action Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

A total of 31 rivers are now found eligible and are summarized below in Table E-2. Description tables and maps follow for each eligible river.

Table E-2. List of eligible rivers

Name	River #	Location	Eligible Prior Plan?	Outstandingly Remarkable Values*	Tentative Classifications
Bark Cabin Creek	19	Gallatin Mountains	No	F	Wild
Bear Creek	32	Pryor Mountains	No	W	Scenic
Big Creek	46	Gallatin Mountains	No	F	Wild
Big Timber Creek	50	Crazy Mountains	No	R, S	Recreational
Boulder River	68	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	Yes	R, S, G, H	Recreational
Cabin Creek	100	Madison Mountains	No	F	Scenic
Cave Creek	123	Pryor Mountains	No	G	Wild
Clarks Fork Yellowstone River	137	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	Yes	S	Wild, Recreational
Crooked Creek	182	Pryor Mountains	Yes	G, S, H, F	Scenic
East Rosebud Creek	265	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	Yes	R, S	Wild, Recreational
Gallatin River	323	Gallatin / Madison Mountains	Yes	R, S, H	Recreational
Hyalite Creek	395	Gallatin Mountains	No	R, S	Scenic
Lake Abundance Creek	419	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	F	Wild
Lake Fork of Rock Creek	421	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	Yes	R, S	Wild, Recreational
Lost Water Creek	471	Pryor Mountains	Yes	S, G, H	Wild, Scenic
Madison River	475	Madison Mountains	Yes	R, G, S, H, W	Recreational
Maid of the Mist Creek	477	Gallatin Mountains	No	R, S	Scenic
Middle Fork Cabin Creek	502	Madison Mountains	No	F	Scenic
Pine Creek	626	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	R, S	Wild, Recreational
Rock Creek	668	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	R, H, S	Recreational
Rock Creek	665	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	F	Wild
Shower Creek	719	Gallatin Mountains	No	R, S	Scenic
Slough Creek & unnamed tribs	737	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	F	Wild, Scenic
Stillwater River	818	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	Yes	R, S	Wild, Recreational
West Boulder River	889	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	R	Wild
West Fork Rock Creek	908	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	Yes	H, S	Wild, Recreational
West Fork Stillwater River	909	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	S	Wild
West Rosebud Creek	916	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	Yes	S, R	Wild
Woodbine Creek	931	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	R, S	Wild, Recreational
Wounded Man Creek	933	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains	No	F	Wild
Yellowstone River	940	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains / Gallatin Mountains	Yes	R, S, H	Recreational

* F=Fisheries, R=Recreation, S=Scenery, G=Geology, W=Wildlife, H=Heritage

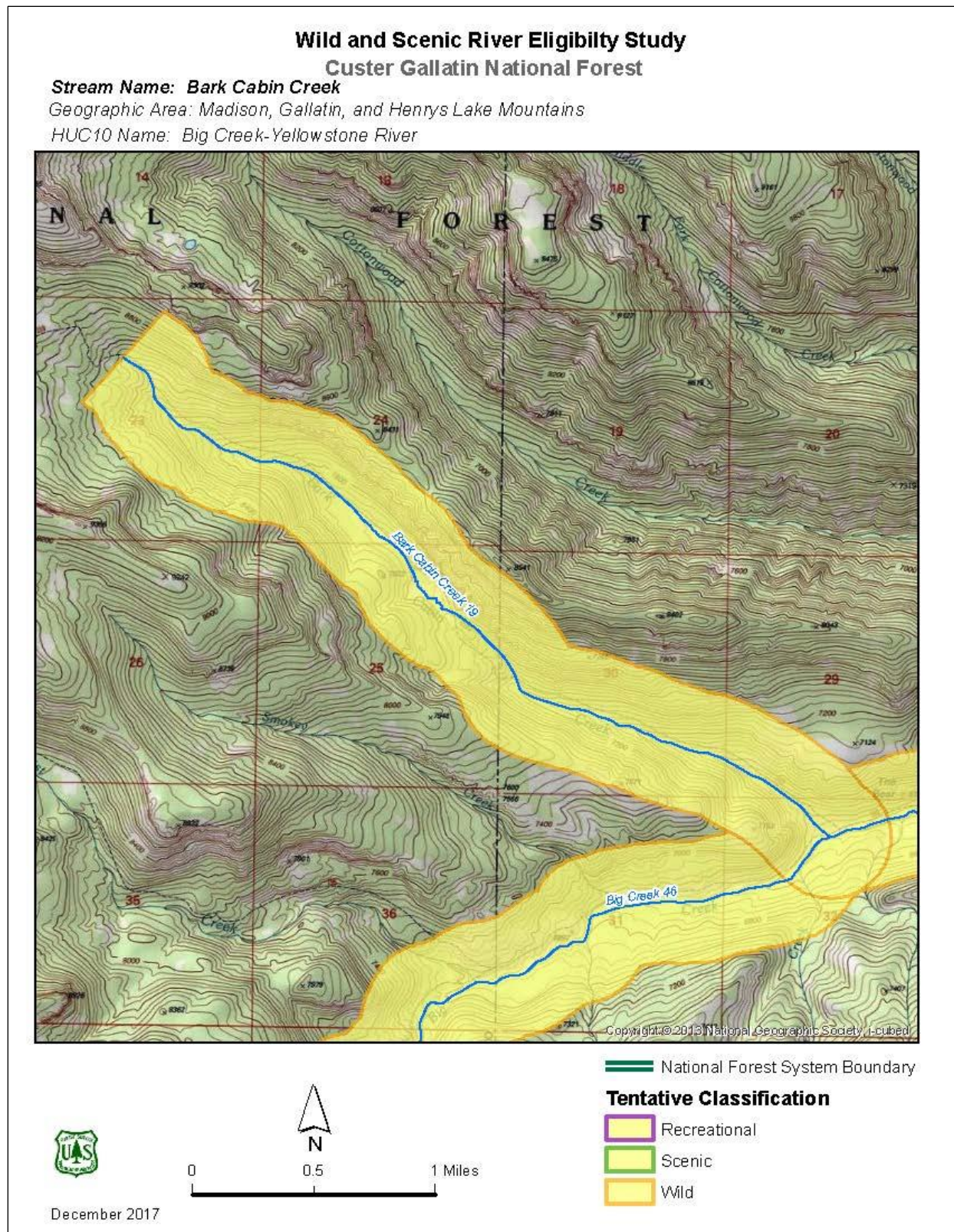
Eligible Wild and Scenic River Description Tables and Maps

Description tables and maps follow for each of the 31 rivers identified as free flowing and possessing at least one outstandingly remarkable value. The eligible rivers and streams are organized alphabetically.

Bark Cabin Creek #19

Table E-3. Bark Cabin Creek #19, Yellowstone RD

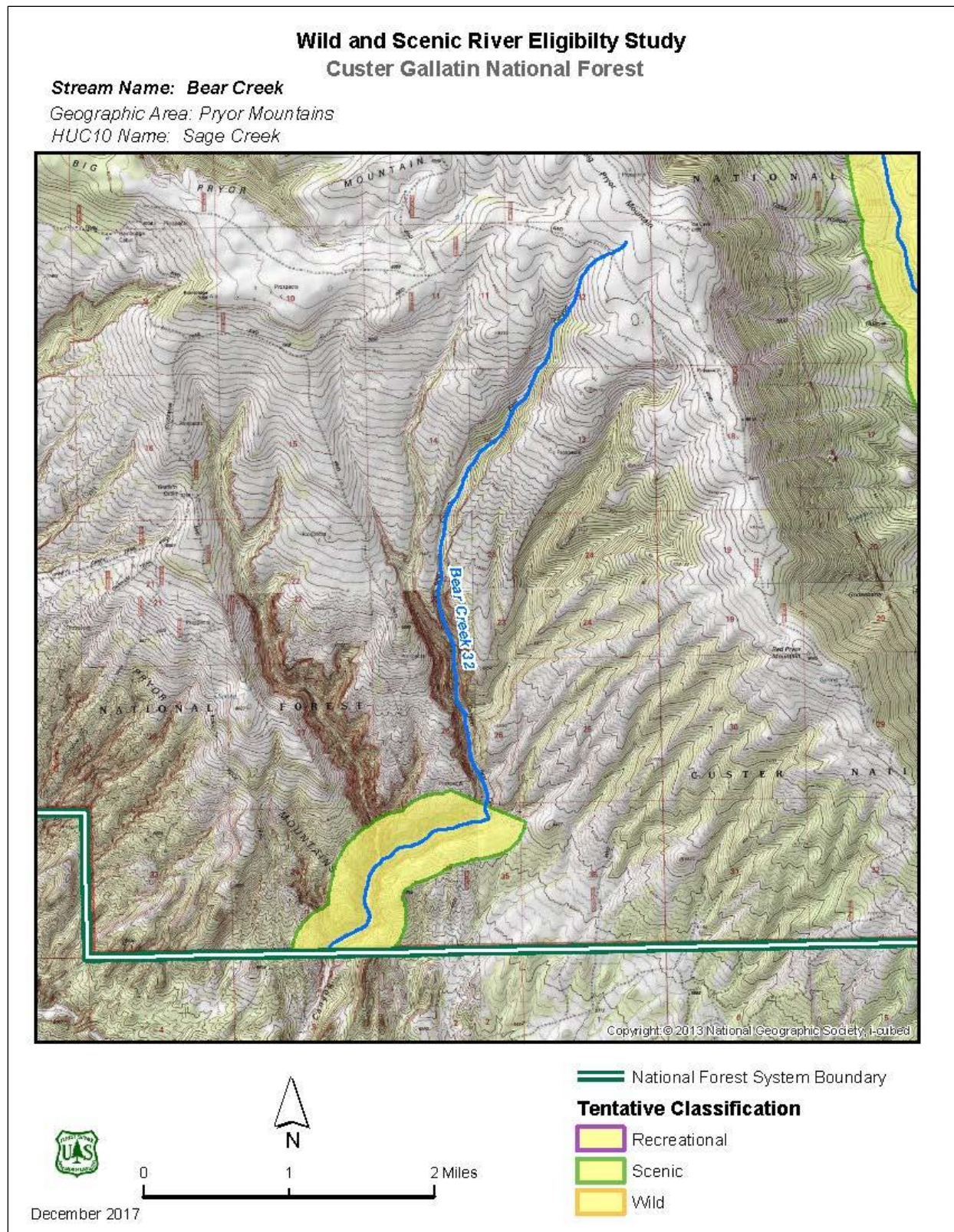
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Bark Cabin Creek #19, Yellowstone RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	From headwaters to confluence with Big Creek.
Miles of each Segment	Wild- 3.72 Miles
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Park and Gallatin Counties, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A natural barrier exists to keep out non-native species on Big Creek #46.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



Bear Creek #32

Table E-4. Bear Creek #32, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Bear Creek #32, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Pryor Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Wildlife
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	From Forest boundary with BLM to North section line of T8S, R26 E, Section 35
Miles of each Segment	Total NF Miles 1.75
Tentative Classification	Scenic
Counties	Carbon County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	This area supports a great diversity of migratory and resident bird species. There is a large, diverse riparian area associated with the creek. This area is unique in region of comparison due to contextual setting of lush riparian vegetation and water surrounded by particularly warm, dry, rocky terrain.
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



Big Creek #46

Table E-5. Big Creek #46, Yellowstone RD

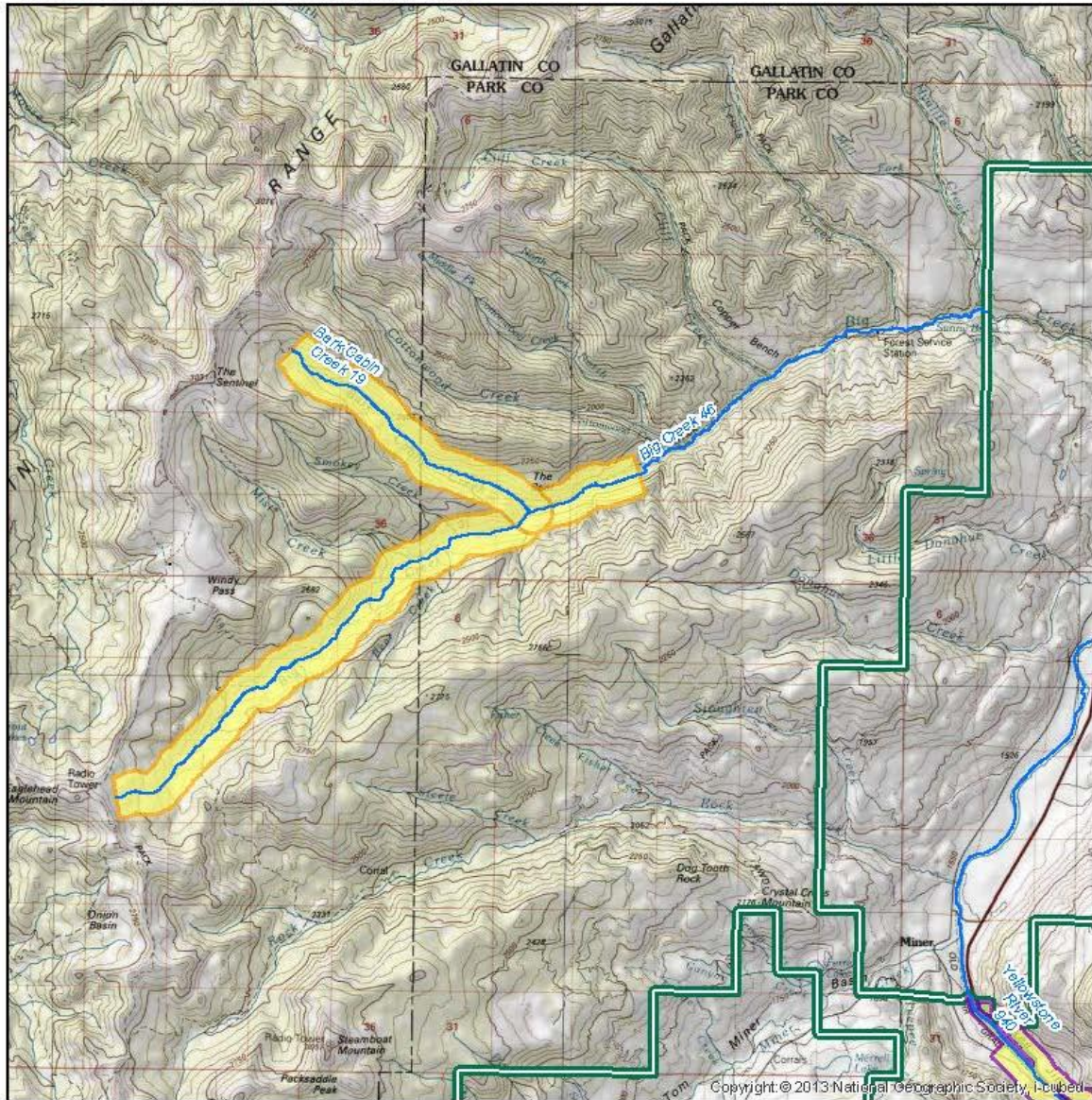
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Big Creek #46, Yellowstone RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild- From headwaters to fish barrier
Miles of each Segment	Wild- 13.55 Miles
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Park and Gallatin Counties, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A natural barrier exists to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Big Creek

Geographic Area: Madison, Gallatin, and Henrys Lake Mountains

HUC10 Name: Big Creek-Yellowstone River



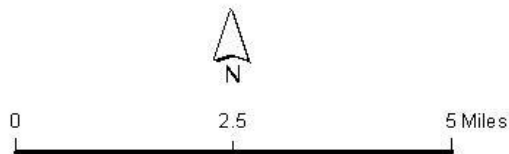
— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



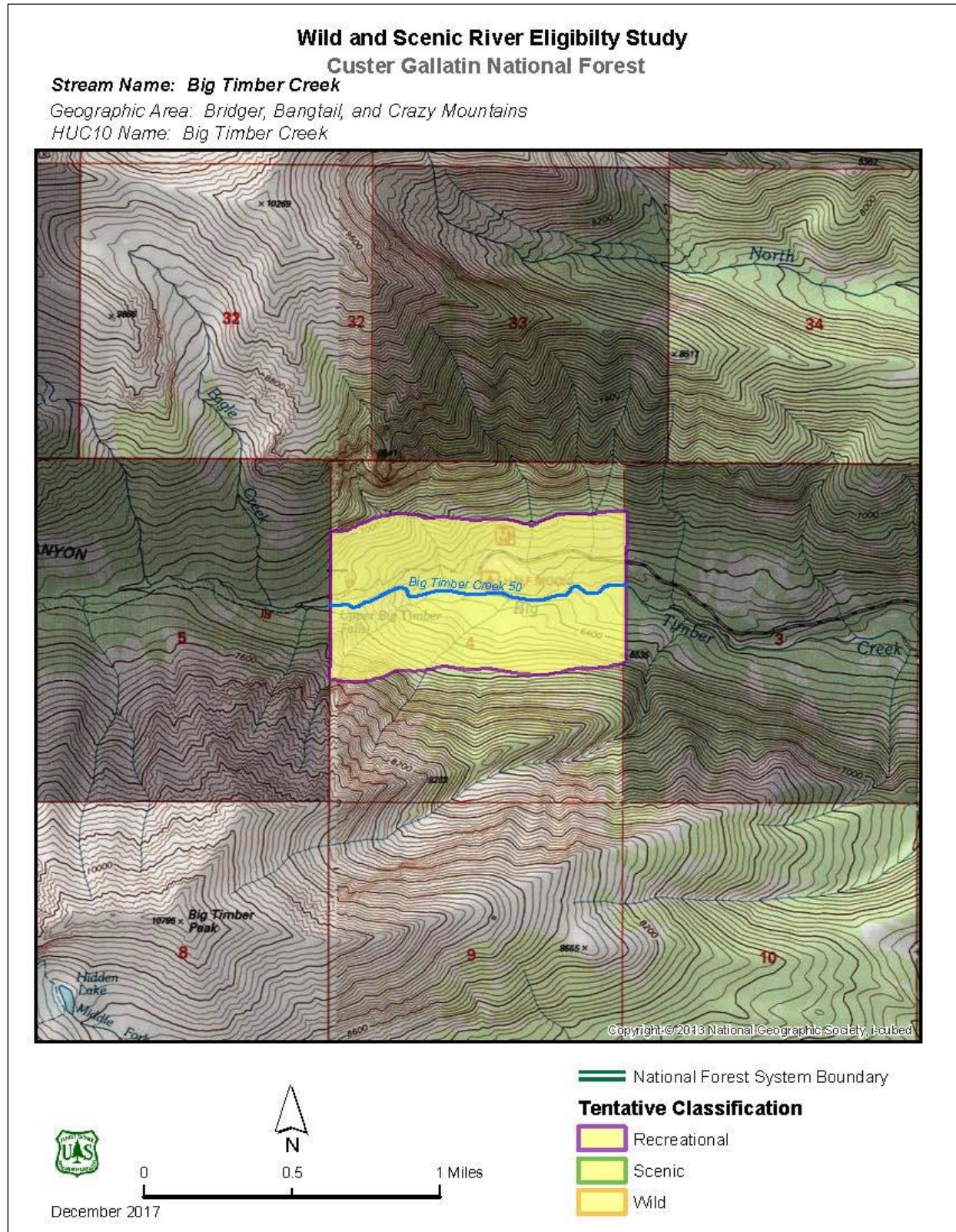
December 2017



Big Timber Creek #50

Table E-6. Big Timber Creek #50, Yellowstone RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Big Timber Creek #50, Yellowstone RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Bridger, Bangtail and Crazy Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Recreational- Contained within T3N R12 E Section 4
Miles of each Segment	Recreational- 1.08 Miles
Tentative Classification	Recreational
Counties	Park and Sweet Grass Counties
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	This visually exciting stretch of Big Timber Creek passes through a narrow canyon bounded by steeply-sloping, tall rock and conifer-covered sidewalls, punctuated by avalanche chutes, cliffs and outcrops. The river froths over and around large boulders and exposed bedrock. About ¼ mile upstream of Halfmoon Campground, the dynamics of the river culminate in a series of plunges that appear as a bright white churning and thundering column zigzagging back and forth and contrasting with the confining rough, dark rock side walls and boulders.
Recreation	The Big Timber Creek Falls are a series of falls that split a narrow rock canyon. The relatively short hike to the falls on the Big Timber Canyon trail and then a user created trail, is a popular destination for hikers and photographers to view the lower portion of the falls. The area is considered a prime destination in the Crazy Mountain Range. Downstream of the falls, adjacent to the Halfmoon campground the creek is a popular destination for swimming and fly fishing. The opportunity for recreationists to experience powerful waterfalls is relatively unique on the Custer Gallatin and within the region of comparison. Big Timber Creek canyon including the falls themselves, provides a somewhat unique spring technical whitewater boating opportunity for the Forest and within the GYA; making it an exemplary destination paddle.
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



Boulder River #68

Table E-7. Boulder River, #68 Yellowstone RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Main Boulder River #68, Yellowstone RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery, Geology, Heritage
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Recreational -From Box Canyon to the National Forest Boundary at Natural Bridge. Excludes private lands.
Miles of each Segment	Recreational- 15.52 National Forest Miles
Tentative Classification	Recreational
Counties	Sweetgrass and Park, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	<p>The Main Boulder River flows down a steep-sided glacial valley surrounded by forested, talus-covered slopes and steep open meadows. As indicated by its name, the river is full of and lined with boulders of all sizes and thus spotted with pools, riffles, rapids and rocky islands. By contrast, in places the river flattens, forming slower, reflective meanders that double back on themselves through cottonwoods, willows, marshes, meadows or in one location, beaver ponds. Through “Hells Canyon” the river steepens and rushes through narrow sections confined by rocky banks, cliffs and large boulders. As the river approaches Natural Bridge, a former Montana state park, limestone sidewalls rise up, leading to the dramatic Natural Bridge Falls that pour over and is surrounded by 100 foot sheer and even overhung cliffs. During low flow, just above the brink of the falls, the water spectacularly disappears down erosion holes in the exposed limestone river bed and reappears –spouting out holes in the face of the cliff and dropping into the rocky pool at the base. Due to the spray from the falls, small flowering and herbaceous plants thrive in breaks along the cliff walls. The namesake “natural bridge” collapsed in the 1990s, but in reality it was only a minor visual feature at the site. During autumn, the deciduous vegetation all along the river lights up and transforms the entire drainage, strongly contrasting with the adjacent darker conifers. The Main Boulder River, with its scenic features, uniquely stunning Natural Bridge Falls, and adjacent picturesque and historic Main Boulder Station, provides scenery that is unusual and remarkable for the Greater Yellowstone Area.</p>
Recreation	<p>The Main Boulder Corridor is an impressive and unique destination for recreationists to partake in river based recreation within the region of comparison. While many recreation sites do occur within river corridors on the forest or within the region of comparison the Main Boulder and its density and variety of recreation opportunities specifically tied to the Boulder River make it exemplary.</p> <p>The river corridor is home to Natural Bridge Falls, a Historic Rangers station and Visitor Center, campgrounds, church camps, recreation residences, picnic areas and rental cabins all of which rely on the river corridor for their unique opportunity.</p> <p>The Main Boulder River is a popular destination for most type of water based recreation including swimming, recreational boating, and fly fishing.</p> <p>The Main Boulder River is considered a fly fishing destination within the GYA, drawing fisherman from within and from outside of the region of comparison to experience this exemplary fishing opportunity. The Main Boulder also provides a somewhat unique Spring technical whitewater boating opportunity for the Forest and within the GYA; making it a destination paddle.</p>
Fisheries	No ORV

Custer Gallatin National Forest Proposed Action—Revised Forest Plan

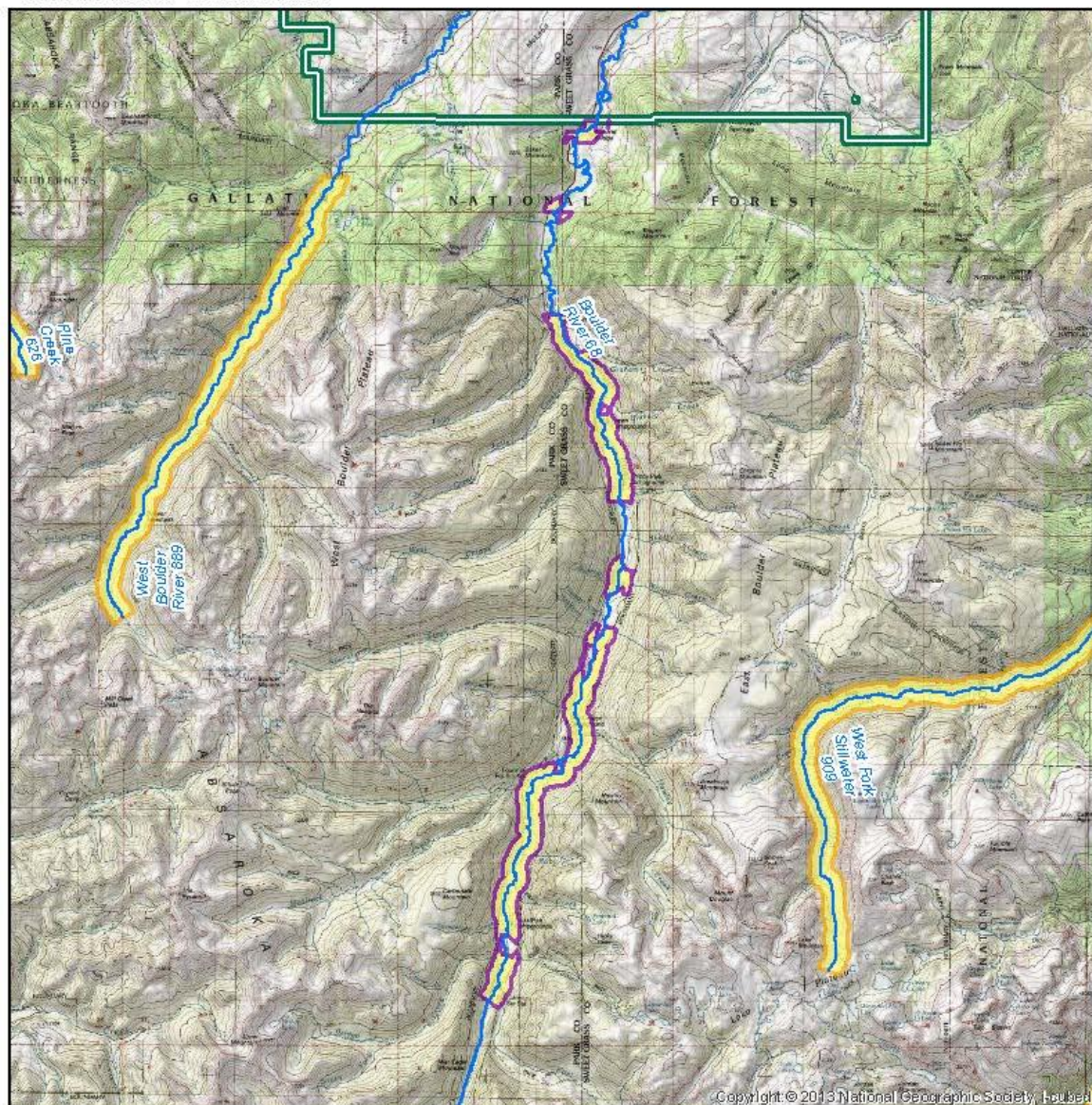
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Main Boulder River #68, Yellowstone RD
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	Within the Region of Comparison, the outstanding geologic resource values within this stream segment are related to unique, rare or exemplary examples of alpine glacial landscapes and processes, as well as karst features in the Region of Natural Bridge.
Heritage	Crow Name (Bilalo`ohchipee) "Where Water goes under". Natural Bridge is an important location to the Crow. National Register Main Boulder guard station is along the corridor.
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: *Boulder River*

Geographic Area: *Absaroka Beartooths*

HUC10 Name: *Boulder River*



— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

Recreational

Scenic

Wild



December 2017

Cabin Creek #100

Table E-8. Cabin Creek #100, Hebgen Lake RD

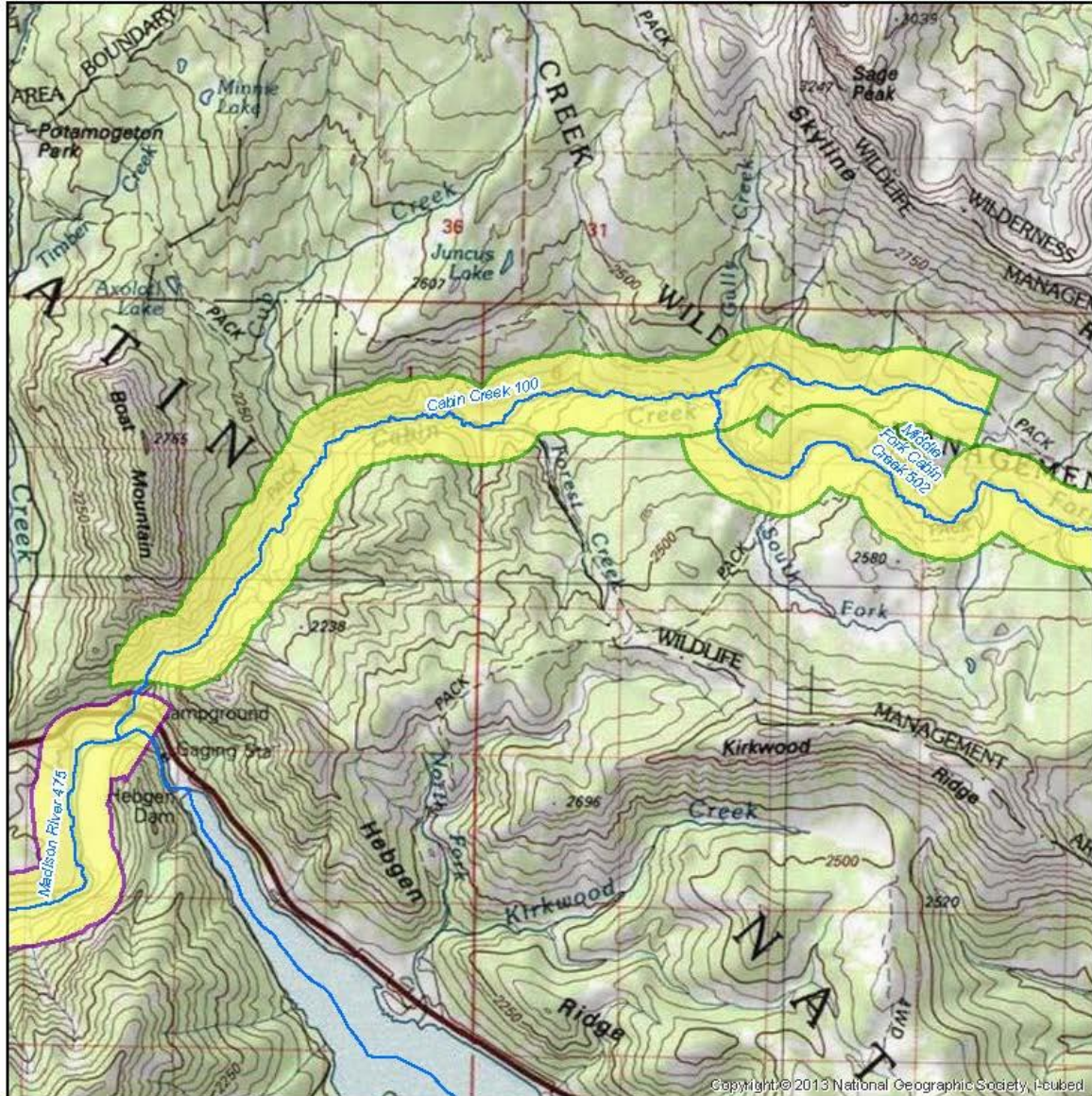
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Cabin Creek #100, Hebgen Lake RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	From headwaters to above constructed fish barrier Long -111.341, Lat 44.875; T11 S, R 3E, Section 15
Miles of each Segment	Scenic- 7.3 Miles
Tentative Classification	Scenic
Counties	Gallatin County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Western Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A constructed barrier exists to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: Cabin Creek

Geographic Area: Madison, Gallatin, and Henrys Lake Mountains

HUC10 Name: Earthquake Lake-Madison River



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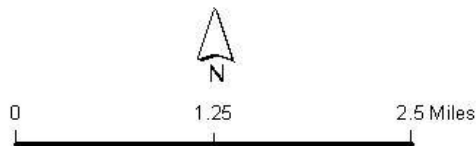
— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



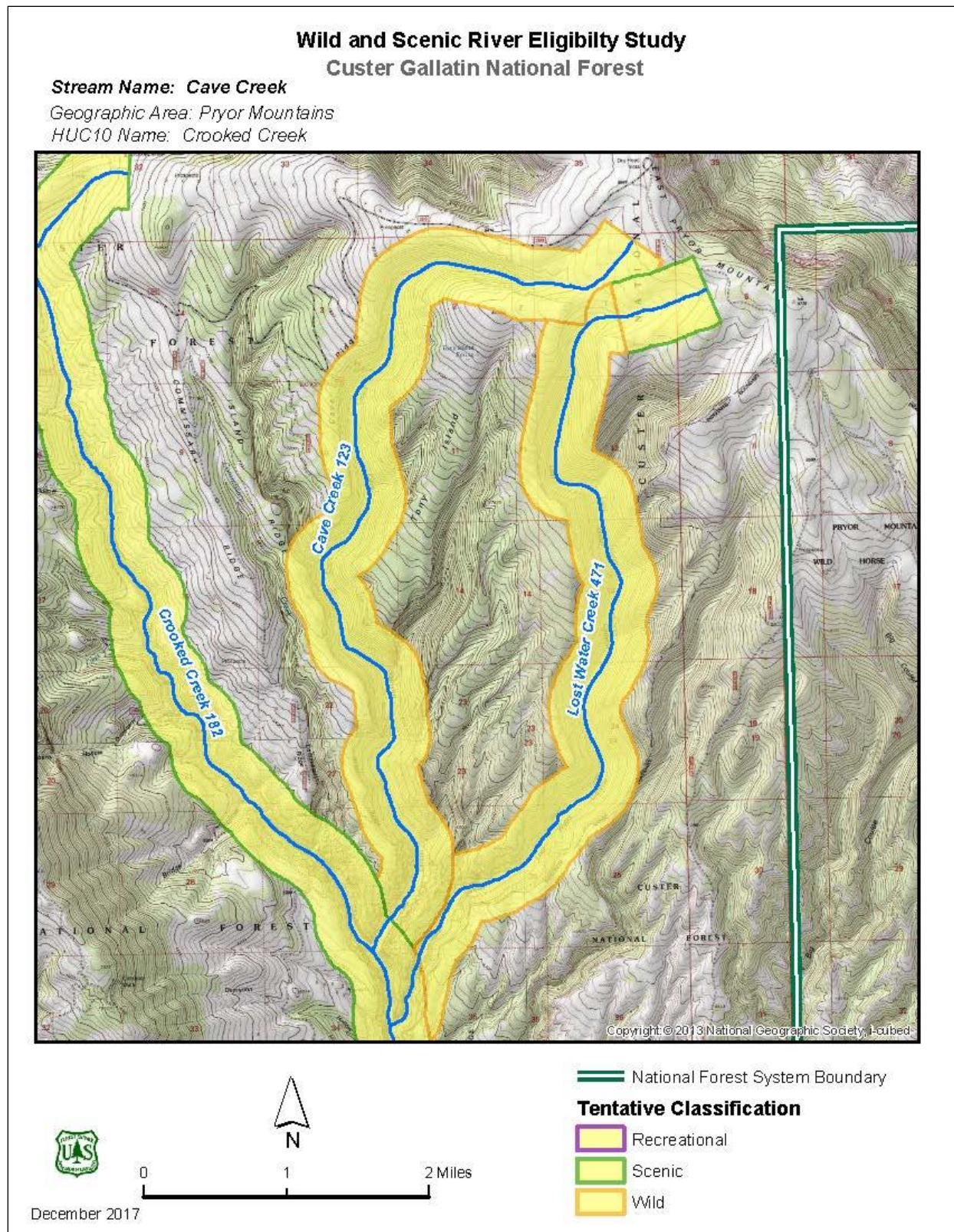
December 2017



Cave Creek #123

Table E-9. Cave Creek #123, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Cave Creek #123, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Geology
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	From headwaters to junction with Crooked Creek
Miles of each Segment	7.2 miles
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Stillwater County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	Part of the hillside that includes Crooked Creek--outstanding geologic resource values within this stream segment are related to unique, rare or exemplary examples of a stream dissected karst landscape which has created a deeply incised stream course and vertical limestone canyons walls. The area also possesses hydrologic characteristic of karst dominated lands which serves to sustain stream functions within the Crooked Creek canyon
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



Clarks Fork Yellowstone River #137

Table E-10. Clarks Fork Yellowstone River #137, Gardiner RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Clarks Fork Yellowstone River #137, Gardiner RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	1. Wild- From the boundary with the Shoshone NF in Wilderness and from the wilderness boundary to the bridge at Clarks Fork Trailhead and Picnic area. Recreational- From Bridge to confluence with the Broadwater Creek
Miles of each Segment	Wild- 2.15 miles Recreational- 0.40 miles
Tentative Classification	Wild- From the Shoshone NF boundary within the Wilderness Recreational- From wilderness boundary to confluence with the Broadwater Creek
Counties	Park County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	ORV is in both segments. Roughly paralleling the Beartooth Scenic Byway, the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone, from its confluence with the Broadwater River downstream to the Wyoming border, provides an extremely unique mix of a visually thrilling river and intriguing historic features. Easily visible are remnants of the unique historic low head dam (breached long ago) and flume that formerly carried water to the 1916 power plant to supply electricity to the mining operations. At the Clarks Fork Trailhead and Picnic Area, the boulders and outcrops form a scenic low waterfall across the entire channel that, along with the conifer trees, frame iconic Granite Peak in the distance. Immediately below the pond at the base of that waterfall, the granite walls confine the river, forming some breathtaking cascades. As the river continues it continues to drop, winding around fir and pine-edged granite boulders, knobs and outcrops, interspersed cascades and calmer granite cliff-lined and wetland meadow stretches. The juxtaposition of easily discernible river-related historic features that add to the sense of place, with stunning natural scenery elements provide a short river segment that is outstanding and unique in the region of comparison.
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

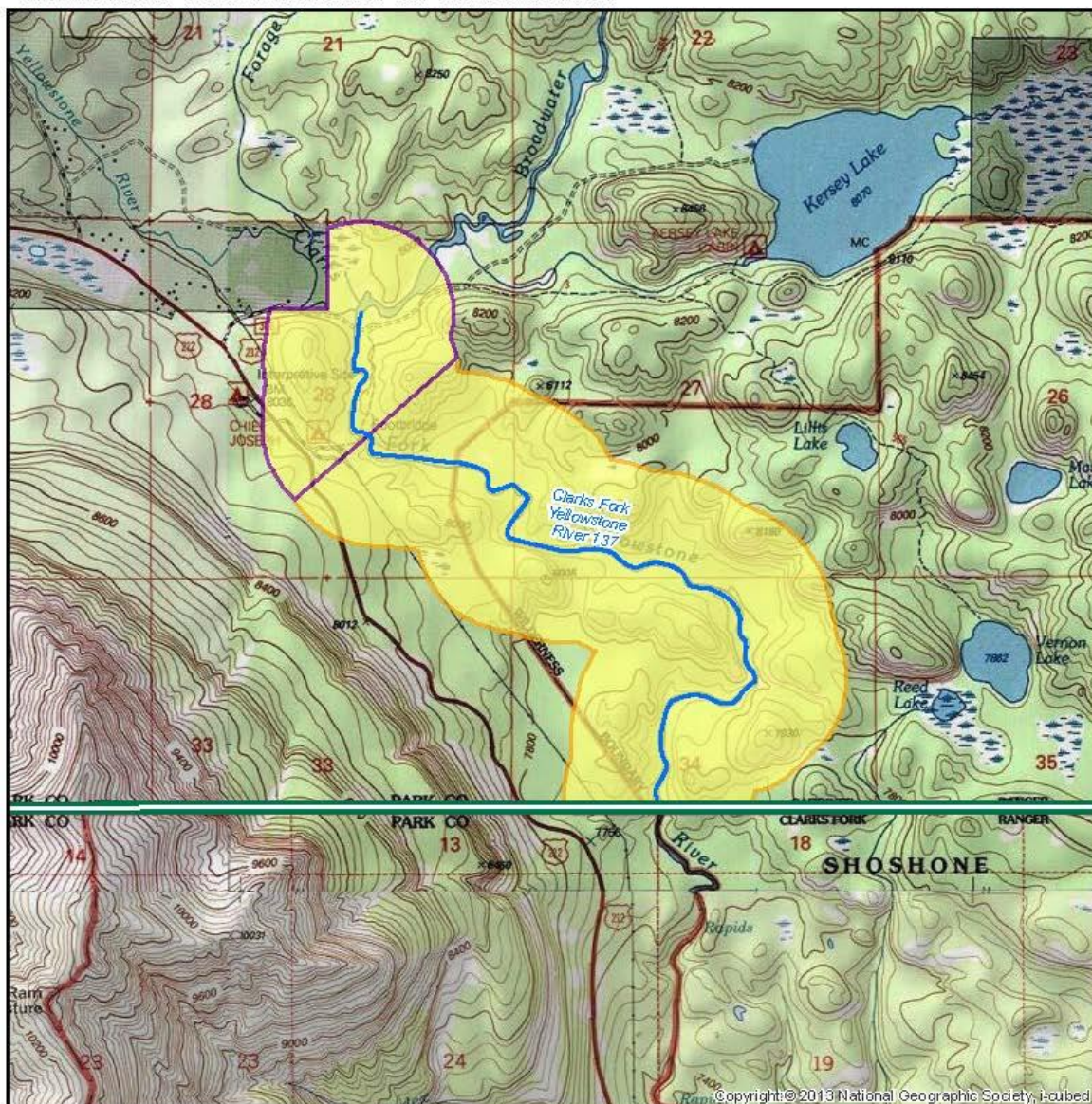
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Clarks Fork Yellowstone River

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: Pilot Creek-Clarks Fork Yellowstone River



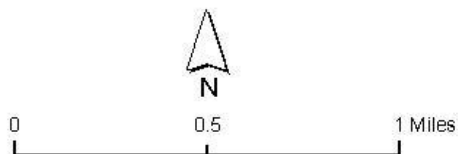
— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



December 2017



Crooked Creek #182

Table E-11. Crooked Creek #182, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Crooked Creek #182, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Pryor Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Geology, Scenery, Heritage, Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Scenic- From the headwaters of Crooked Creek to the National Forest and BLM boundary.
Miles of each Segment	Scenic= 7.89 Miles
Tentative Classification	Scenic
Counties	Carbon, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes. Also previously identified in adjacent BLM's Wild and Scenic River's evaluation as Eligible and Suitable.
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	Crooked Creek, as one of a few perennial streams in the Pryors, flows along the bottom of an impressive deeply-incised canyon dividing the two major uplifted parts of the Pryor Mountains. While the canyon shares some visual characteristics with other canyons that cut downhill on the south and southwest side of the Pryors, the magnitude, continuity, extensive and sharp-edged, red and gray-colored limestone cliffs and buttresses make it exemplary for the region of comparison. Pocked with a variety of water and wind-sculpted holes, caves, fluting and columns, the limestone cliffs, in places up to hundreds of feet tall at the canyon's deepest, lend the canyon a sense of mystery, inaccessibility and surprise. The dark greens of the trees and shrubs that take advantage of the year-round water flow as well as some protection of the shadier alcoves formed by the canyon walls visually contrast with the exposed bright-colored limestone cliffs.
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A barrier exists to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	Outstanding geologic resource values within this stream segment are related to unique, rare or exemplary examples of a stream dissected karst landscape which has created a deeply incised stream course and vertical limestone canyons walls. The area also possesses hydrologic characteristic of karst dominated lands which serves to sustain stream functions within the Crooked Creek canyon.
Heritage	High concentration of cultural sites including rock shelters, aboriginal trails and historic logging camps.
Other	No ORV

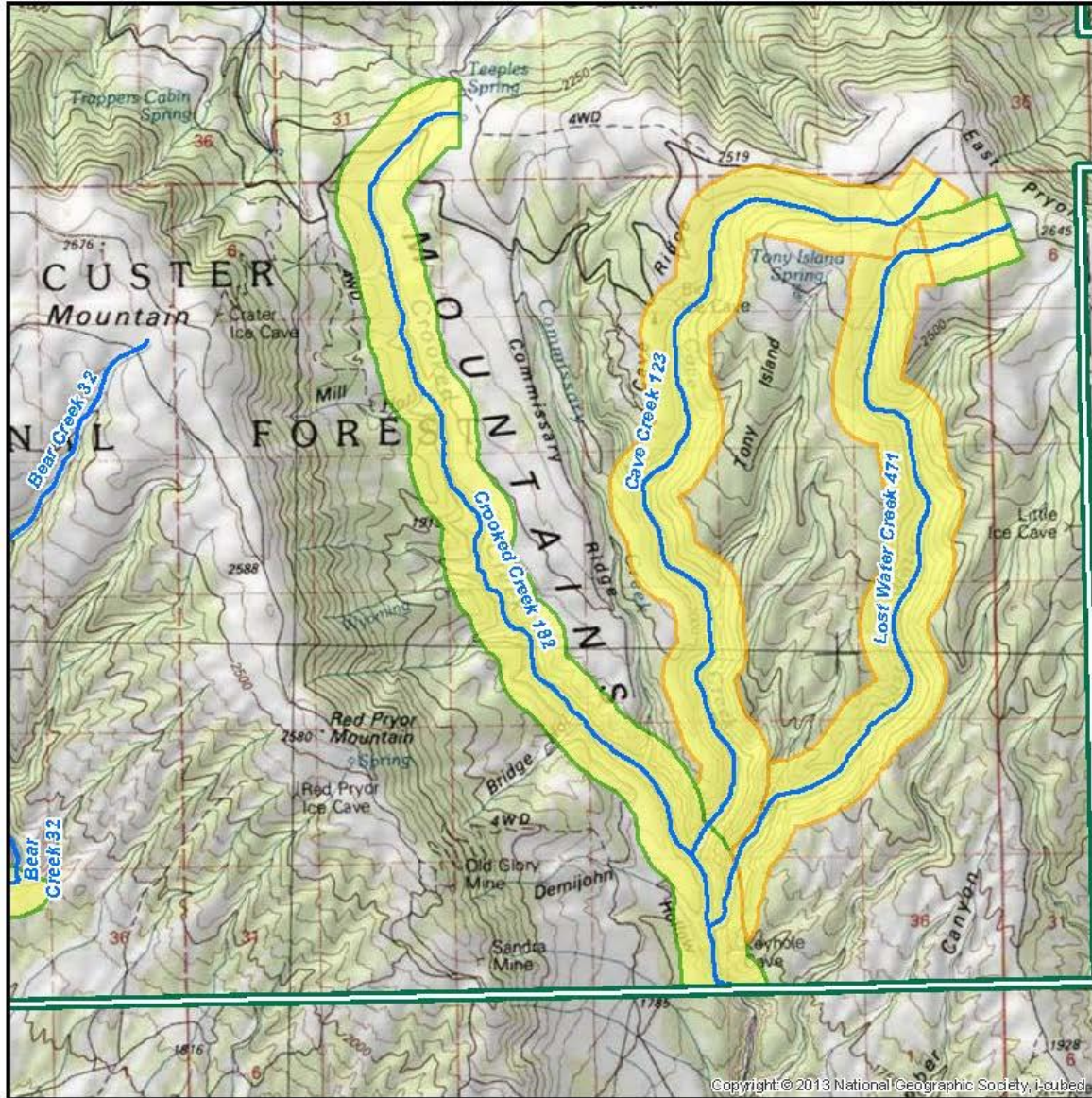
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Crooked Creek

Geographic Area: Pryor Mountains

HUC10 Name: Crooked Creek



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0 1.5 3 Miles

December 2017

— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

East Rosebud Creek #265

Table E-12. East Rosebud Creek #265, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	East Rosebud Creek #265, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild-From headwaters to Wilderness boundary Recreational- from Wilderness boundary to final forest boundary, exclude private lands
Miles of each Segment	Wild=10.2 miles Recreational= 6.75 miles on National Forest
Tentative Classification	Wild, Recreational
Counties	Carbon and Park, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes, also current legislation pending. Also in Custer Forest Plan and Amendment #2.
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	<p><u>Inside the AB Wilderness:</u> The creek forms several spectacular cascades, such as Impasse Falls, and steep drops alongside huge granite boulders, steep, granite cliffs and talus slopes. Exemplary alpine scenery of juxtaposed glacial-scoured granite, pockets of conifers, willows and other shrubs with expansive boulder-studded meadows, dotted with classic paternoster lakes and ponds.</p> <p><u>Downstream from East Rosebud Lake, Outside the ABW:</u> The creek flows along the bottom of an open, spectacularly classic glacial valley, over a rock and boulder-strewn bed, with fairly continuous riffles and small rapids, lined by strings of dark conifer trees intermixed with brighter green willows. The spectacular glacier-smoothed granite buttresses and steep side slopes descend almost to the creek itself. Golden autumn colors of the cottonwoods, aspen and deciduous shrubs blanket the valley floor and creep up the side slopes, contrasting with adjacent dark conifers and often snow-dusted peaks up higher.</p> <p>The preponderance and high degree of variety and vividness of colors, landforms, and textures combine to make the scenery along the East Rosebud river corridor one of the outstanding waterways in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Because of this scenery, it draws viewers from across the GYA and beyond.</p>
Recreation	The East Rosebud creek, located within the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, provides a premier recreation opportunity for visitors travelling on the East Rosebud Trail, which is a portion of the Beaten Path. The Beaten Path is one of the most popular destination activities in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness and is considered a major recreation destination within the GYA and beyond for backpackers and hikers experiencing the exemplary recreation the East Rosebud creek and chain of lakes provides.
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

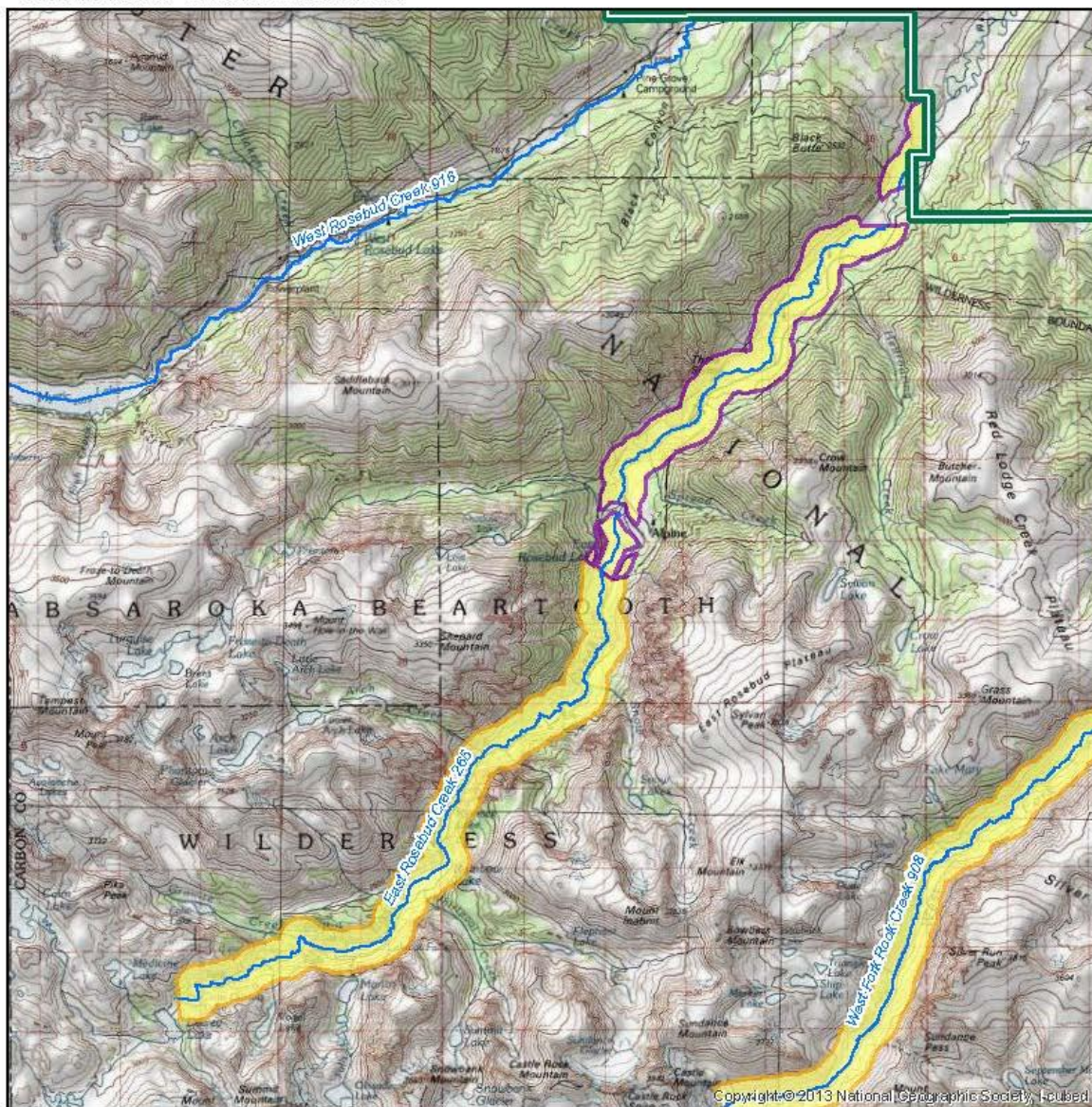
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study

Custer Gallatin National Forest

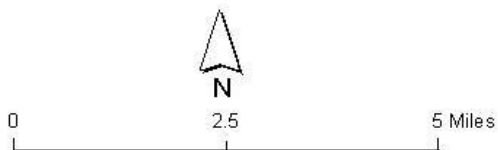
Stream Name: East Rosebud Creek

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: East Rosebud Creek



December 2017



— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

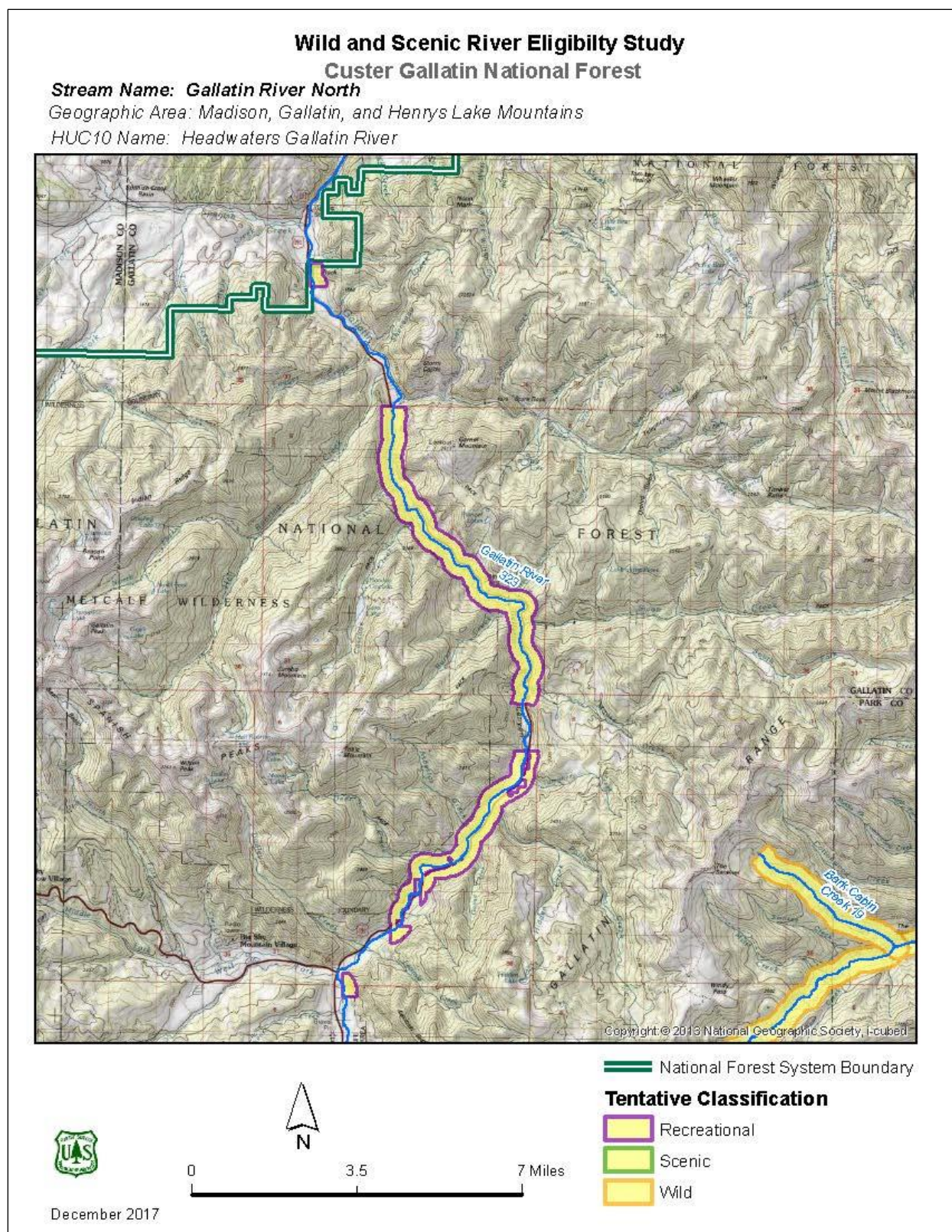
Gallatin River #323

Table E-13. Gallatin River #323, Bozeman RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Gallatin River #323, Bozeman RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery, Heritage
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Recreational - The Gallatin River exits Yellowstone National Park onto the Custer Gallatin National Forest, then meanders in and out of the Park boundary until it finally stays on the Forest. There are long stretches of river shoreline that have private and other ownerships, mixed with stretches with at least one shore on National Forest. The Gallatin River finally exits the Custer Gallatin Forest near Gallatin Gateway. Segments that cross private and state lands are not included in the river Eligibility study.
Miles of each Segment	Total NF Miles 39.56
Tentative Classification	Recreational
Counties	Gallatin County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	<p>From the point at which the Gallatin River leaves Yellowstone National Park and enters the CGNF on the south end of this segment, to where it leaves the CGNF on its north end, the river passes stunning rock formations, cliffs, wetlands, open meadows and steep tree-covered or open grass slopes that visually create the intimate nature of the Gallatin Canyon. The upper stretch meanders and braids through broad, densely-covered willow meadows, edged by spectacular ochre-colored limestone cliffs that glow in late afternoon sun. This stretch also passes fence lines and some buildings of a couple historic ranches, which visually add context to the landscape.</p> <p>In the stretch of river close to and downstream of Big Sky, the river also is edged by a lot of residential and business development, which, in places, dominates the immediate foreground view. However, because the scenic backdrop of steep tree-covered slopes, cliffs and rock outcrops immediately behind the narrow strip of development is so outstanding, or because there is, in places, a thin band of trees or shrubs that fill the immediate foreground of viewers on the river, the development does not completely override the scenic qualities.</p> <p>The nature of the river itself changes, from the slower narrow braids and meanders in its upper end to a single wider channel that is pushed around rocky ridges in its path, with increasing amounts of boulders and rocks, among which eddy pools contrast with rapids and swift water, especially during spring runoff. The boulder-choked sections are interspersed, in a few places, with wider flatter sections where the river splits around islands. In places the Douglas fir trees that edge long stretches of the river, lean and curve over the river, visually framing the channel. A narrow band of cottonwoods and other deciduous vegetation light up the drainage in the fall.</p>
Recreation	The Gallatin River is a world renowned destination for all types of water based recreation. The portions of the river of the Forest provide tremendous opportunity for wade fishing, recreational boating, picnicking, camping, wildlife viewing, and photography. While many recreation sites do occur within river corridors on the CG or within the region of comparison the Gallatin River Corridor and its density and variety of recreation opportunities specifically tied to the River make it exemplary.

Custer Gallatin National Forest Proposed Action—Revised Forest Plan

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Gallatin River #323, Bozeman RD
	<p>The river corridor is home to campgrounds, organization camps, recreation residences, picnic areas and trailheads all of which rely on the river corridor for the unique opportunity they provide.</p> <p>The Gallatin River is known to host one of the premier whitewater runs in the GYA, a class IV section called the "Mad Mile". This section is over a mile long and contains continuous stretches of challenging whitewater. This type of opportunity is relatively rare and unique within the GYA.</p> <p>The Gallatin River is considered a fly fishing destination within the GYA and beyond, drawing recreationists from within and from outside of the region of comparison to experience this exemplary fishing opportunity.</p>
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built Shenango Ranger station with a remarkable 1930s bridge across the river.
Other	No ORV



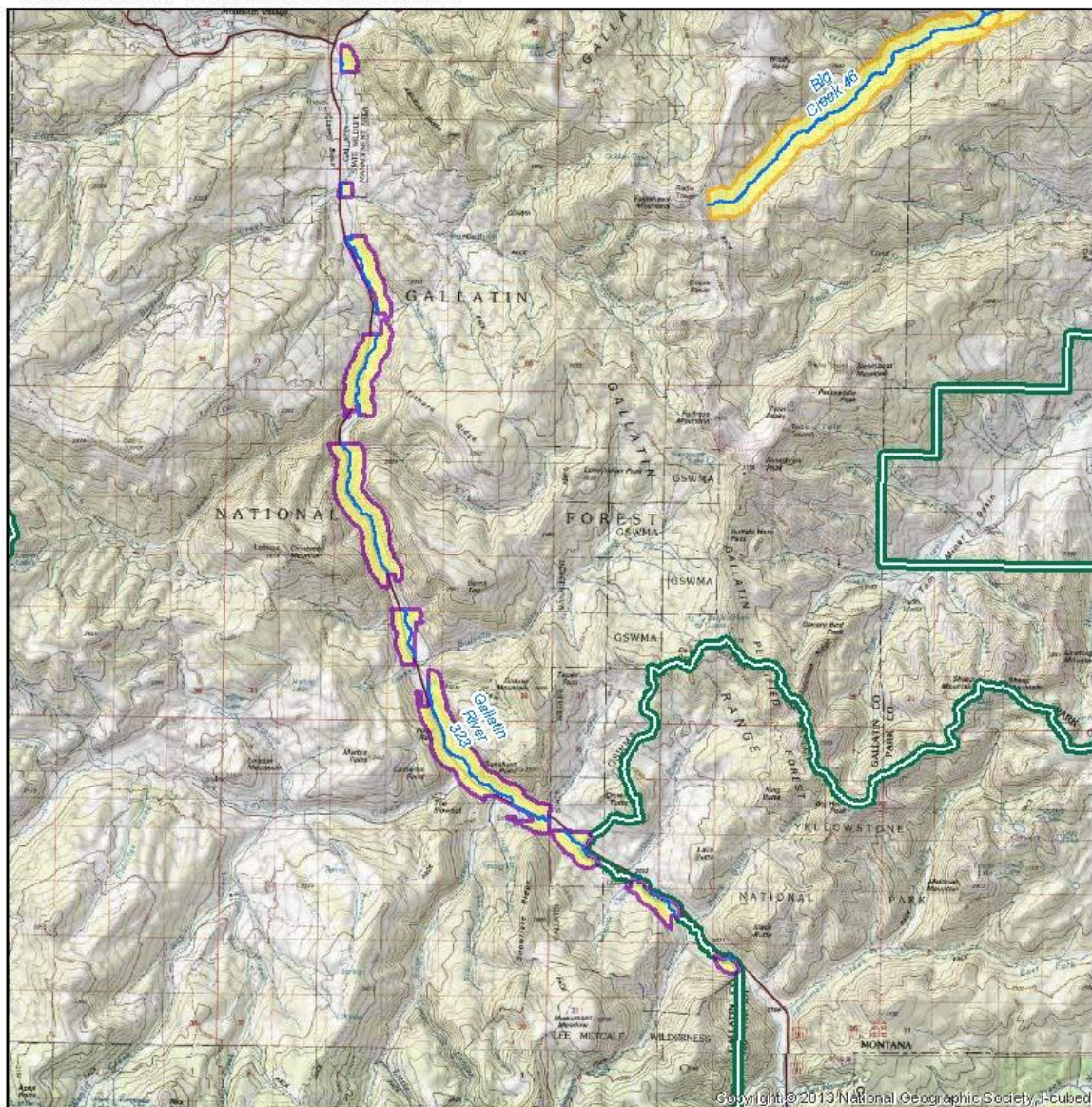
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Gallatin River South

Geographic Area: Madison, Gallatin, and Henrys Lake Mountains

HUC10 Name: Headwaters Gallatin River



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December 2017



0 3.75 7.5 Miles

— National Forest System Boundary

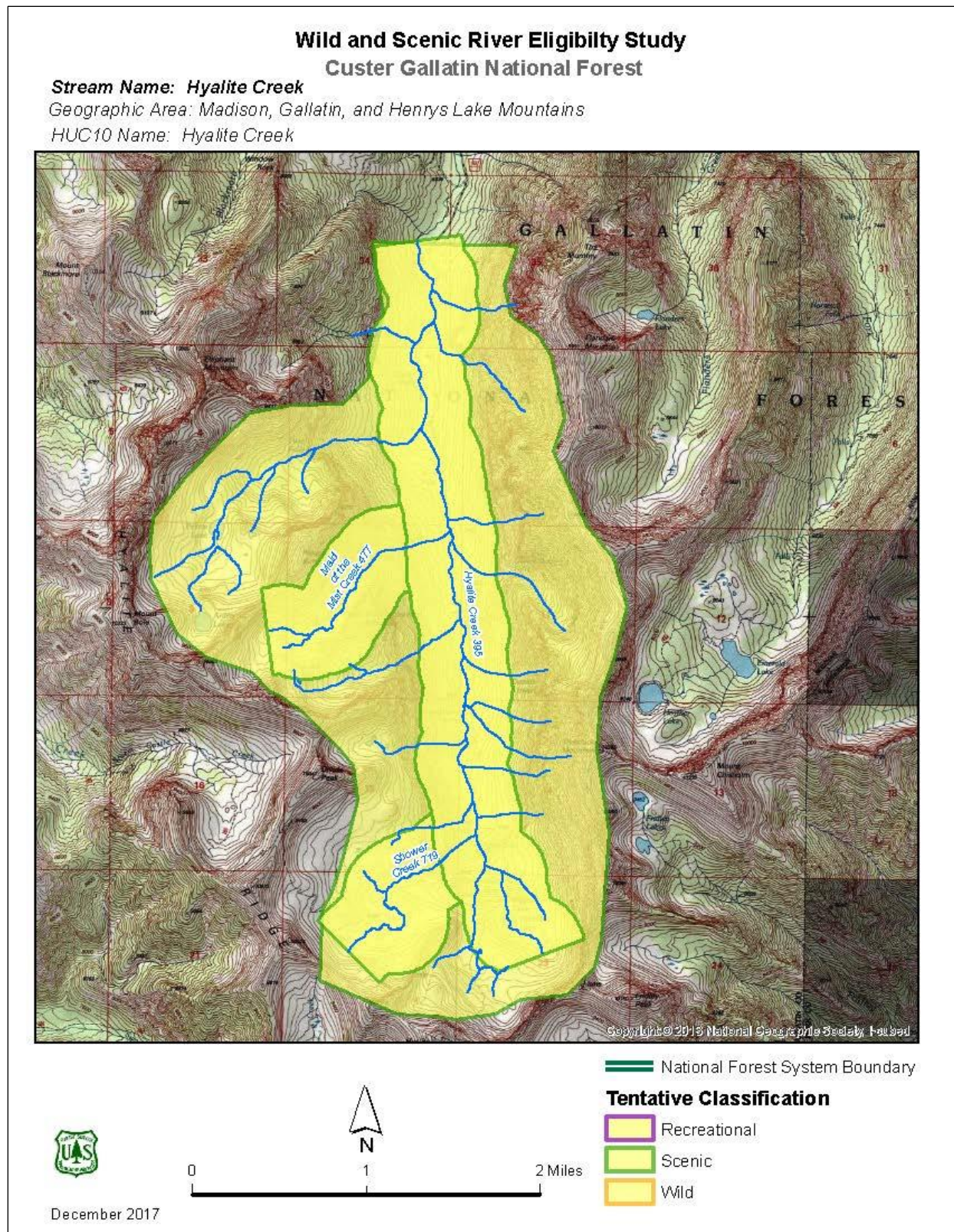
Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

Hyalite Creek #395

Table E-14. Hyalite Creek #395, Bozeman RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Hyalite Creek #395, Bozeman RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Scenic- From the headwaters to the West Fork / Grotto Falls Trailhead. Includes all side drainages, including un-named tributaries as mapped, along with the two named creeks, Maid of the Mist #477 and Shower Creek #719, which also start at their headwaters.
Miles of each Segment	Scenic- 4.64 miles
Tentative Classification	Scenic
Counties	Gallatin County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	Upper Hyalite Creek, with all of its side tributaries that originate in lush alpine cirques spotted with sparkling lakes, walled in by tall cliffs of rough, dark volcanic rock, is a thrilling landscape with narrow U-shaped valleys, numerous spectacular waterfalls, and the main river course that is so extremely deeply incised that in one place the river flows through a unique arch, deep within the river chasm. The vegetation along the creek and tributaries varies from lush wetlands and meadows, to dense conifer forests to twisted wind-stunted trees in the higher elevations. In autumn, the area lights up with reds and yellows that contrast with the dark conifers.
Recreation	<p>The area described as Upper Hyalite for the recreation ORV includes the main stem of Hyalite Creek beginning at Grotto Falls TH, and is an area that includes the named tributaries of Shower Creek and Maid of the Mist. The areas also includes all of the unnamed tributaries that contribute to the unique recreation opportunity; including short off trail hikes, photography and world renowned ice climbing.</p> <p>The Hyalite River corridor is the most heavily visited recreation complex in Region one of Montana. Upper Hyalite, the area above the dam and reservoir to the headwaters provides exemplary recreation opportunity within the region of comparison.</p> <p>Hyalite Creek itself is a popular trail based opportunity, with many side hikes to unique and densely concentrated waterfalls, and hike along the creek to the lake a major destination. The concentration of waterfalls create rare and exemplary conditions for ice climbing; making this area a destination in the GYA and beyond for a wide range of climbers</p>
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



Lake Abundance Creek #419

Table E-15. Lake Abundance Creek #419, Gardiner RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Lake Abundance Creek #419, Gardiner RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild– From the headwaters to the junction of Slough Creek. This creek is completely within the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness.
Miles of each Segment	Wild- 7.38 miles
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Park County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A natural barrier exists to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

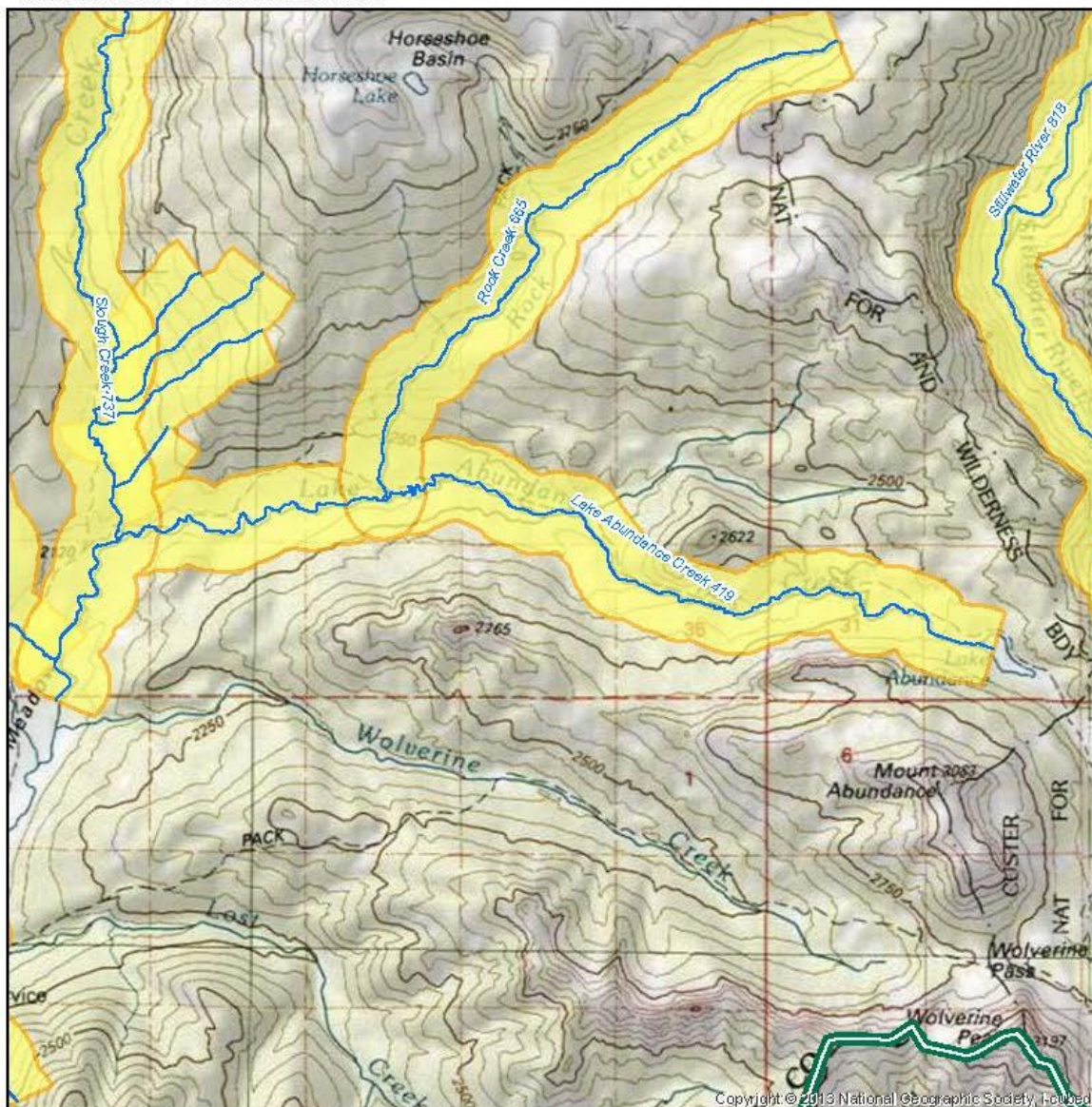
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Lake Abundance Creek

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: Lower Lamar River



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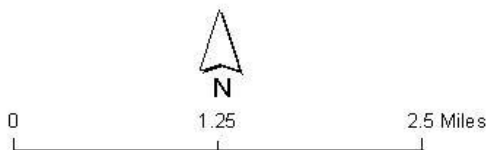
— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



December 2017



Lake Fork of Rock Creek #421

Table E-16. Lake Fork of Rock Creek #421, Beartooth RD

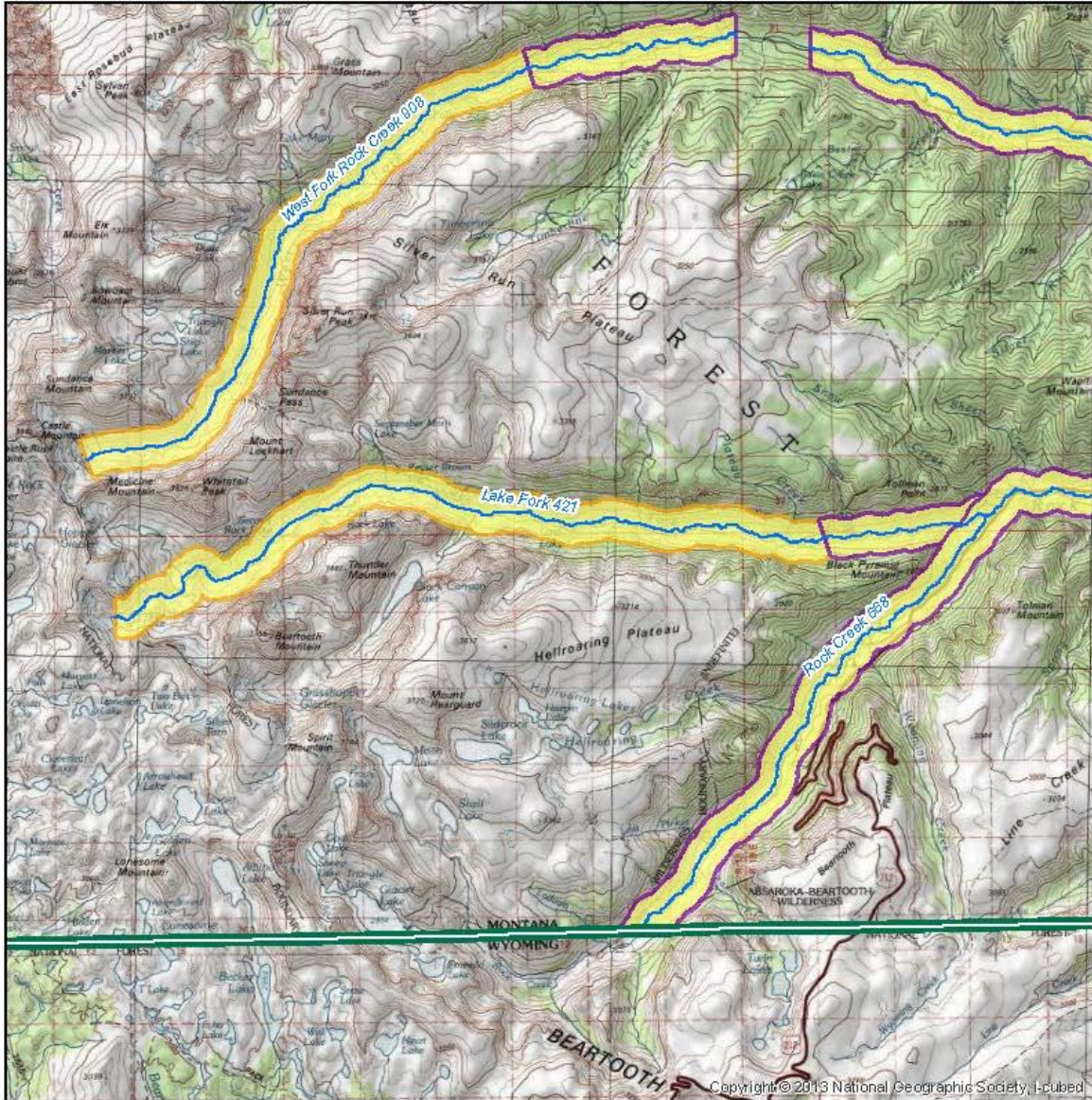
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Lake Fork of Rock Creek #421, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild- From headwater to wilderness boundary. Recreational- from Wilderness boundary to junction with main fork of Rock Creek.
Miles of each Segment	Wild- 10.94 Recreational-2.35
Tentative Classification	Wild, Recreational
Counties	Carbon, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes, Custer Forest Plan and Amendment #2
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	<p>From the AB Wilderness boundary upstream to its headwaters: The creek has long runs of large glacial boulder-strewn whitewater, interspersed with quiet lush wetlands and meadows. In its lower sections, it passes through fairly dense forests of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and aspen.</p> <p>Above its confluence with the creek from September Morn Lake, along the string of glacial lakes, which includes First and Second Rock Lakes up to the cirque that contains Sky Pilot Lake, there is an exemplary juxtaposition of the boulder-strewn creek, against expanses of steep talus, pockets and stringers of dense conifers, glacial-carved granite cliffs, alpine tarns, meadows full of alpine flowers and dotted with glacial erratic boulders.</p> <p>Due to the magnitude of these visual features, combined with the outstanding autumn colors provided by aspen, willow and other deciduous vegetation, the Lake Fork of Rock Creek, especially the upper part, is among the most remarkable waterways in the Greater Yellowstone Area and attracts visitors from across the GYA and beyond.</p>
Recreation	The Lake Fork Rock Creek trail is popular recreation destination within the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, the GYA and beyond for backpackers and hikers experiencing the exemplary recreation along the creek. The trail follows the Lake Fork of Rock Creek all the way up the canyon to Sundance Pass; which is also a unique and exemplary recreation destination
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: Lake Fork

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: Rock Creek



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Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



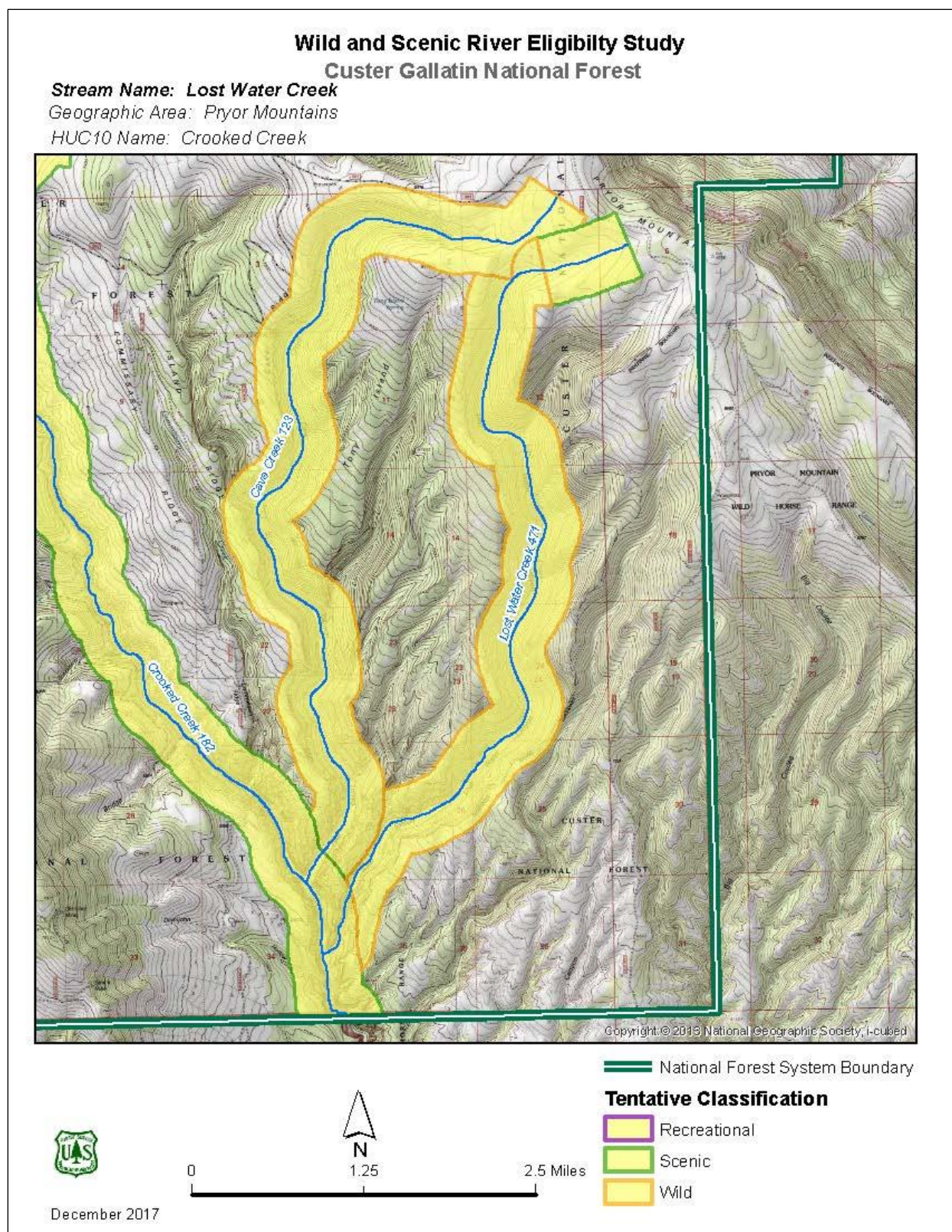
December 2017



Lost Water Creek #471

Table E-17. Lost Water Creek #471, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Lost Water Creek #471, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Pryor Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Geology, Heritage
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Scenic – From the headwaters, Lost Water Canyon road #2308g, and its spur 2308g2 are Forest Service roads within the corridor. Wild- where the roads depart from the ½ mile corridor, and the remaining area is undeveloped.
Miles of each Segment	Scenic- 0.64 Wild- 6.25
Tentative Classification	Wild, Scenic
Counties	Carbon, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description:
Scenery	From approximately 2.5 miles above its confluence with Crooked Creek downstream to that confluence: As Lost Water Creek descends and gets close to its confluence with Crooked Creek, it becomes more incised, the sidewall cliffs become more vertical, the exposed limestone buttresses become more visually dominant, and the exemplary visual contrasts between the clusters of dark green trees juxtaposed with the startlingly reddish and gray-colored, sharp-edged limestone cliffs become stronger. Enhancing that striking scenery is the strong visible difference between the more densely vegetated canyon bottom and northeast-facing slopes, and the sparser southwest and west-facing slopes where more limestone and light-colored soil is exposed. Due to the continuity and length of the vertical sharp-edged cliffs, depth of the incised canyon, along with the vivid visual contrasts and visual dominance of the limestone buttresses, Lost Water Creek Canyon is outstanding in the Pryor Mountains and the Greater Yellowstone Area.
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	Within the Region of Comparison, the outstanding geologic resource values within this stream segment are related to unique, rare or exemplary examples of a stream dissected karst landscape which has created a deeply incised stream course and vertical limestone canyons walls. The area also possesses hydrologic characteristic of karst dominated lands which serves to sustain stream functions within Lost Water Creek and Crooked Creek Cave Creek hydrologic complex of canyons.
Heritage	High concentration of cultural sites and aboriginal trails. These sites offer excellent examples of cultural use of travel routes and sites along waterways.
Other	No ORV



Madison River #475

Table E-18. Madison River #475, Hebgen Lake RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Madison River #475, Hebgen Lake RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery, Geology, Heritage, Wildlife
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Segment 1 Recreational- From the boundary between YNP and Custer Gallatin NF in NE side of T13S, R5E, Sections 10, 15 to its inlet in the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake. Segment 2 Recreational- From 1/4 mile below Hebgen Dam to the Custer Gallatin National Forest boundary.
Miles of each Segment	Segment 1 Recreational- 2.87 Miles Segment 2 Recreational- 8.44 Miles
Tentative Classification	Recreational
Counties	Gallatin and Madison Counties, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	<p>Scenery ORV is in both Segments 1 and 2- Above Hebgen Lake (reservoir), the river passes through a dense willow wetland, where uniquely compressed meanders of the river alternate between Yellowstone National Park and the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The lushness of the willows and other understory vegetation contrast sharply with the pines and firs growing on slightly higher, drier ground. In places the meanders almost double back on themselves, with smaller braided channels, abandoned meanders and dead-end channels creating exemplary visual variety along the river course. Not in previous description, was added.</p> <p>Below the Hebgen Dam the river bends almost 180 degrees around a steep forested ridge, then spreads out, flowing around islands and sandbars across a narrow flat meadow edged by steep forested slopes, forming strikingly stellar scenery. Where the river passes "Ghost Village" there are remnants of a resort and houses that were moved by the flood caused by the geologically significant 1959 earthquake and resulting landslide. The river slowly widens out as it enters the eerily stunning Earthquake Lake, confined by steep densely-covered conifer slopes along its south shore, on which the highest level of the flood is still easily discernible. Some sloping open meadows on the north side contrast with the otherwise steep conifer and avalanche-chute-lined slopes that drop right into the lake. The often-photographed feature of still-standing inundated dead trees, now bleached bright gray, usually host cormorants drying their wings – adding to the unique scenic setting. The starkness of the landslide is visually dominant on both sides of the Bureau of Reclamation-cut outlet, visually reinforcing the stunning magnitude of the geologic forces. The scenery of the landslide and the dramatically changed landscape along the Madison River, is unique not only in Greater Yellowstone Area but across the United States.</p>
Recreation	<p>Recreation ORVs are only found in Segment 2- The Madison River is a renowned destination for all types of water based recreation. The portions of the river of the Forest provide tremendous opportunity for fishing, recreational boating, camping, wildlife viewing, and photography.</p> <p>The Madison River is considered a fly fishing destination within the GYA and beyond, drawing recreationists from within and from outside of the region of comparison to experience this exemplary fishing opportunity. It is considered one of the most productive streams in Montana for brown trout, rainbow trout and mountain whitefish.</p>

Custer Gallatin National Forest Proposed Action—Revised Forest Plan

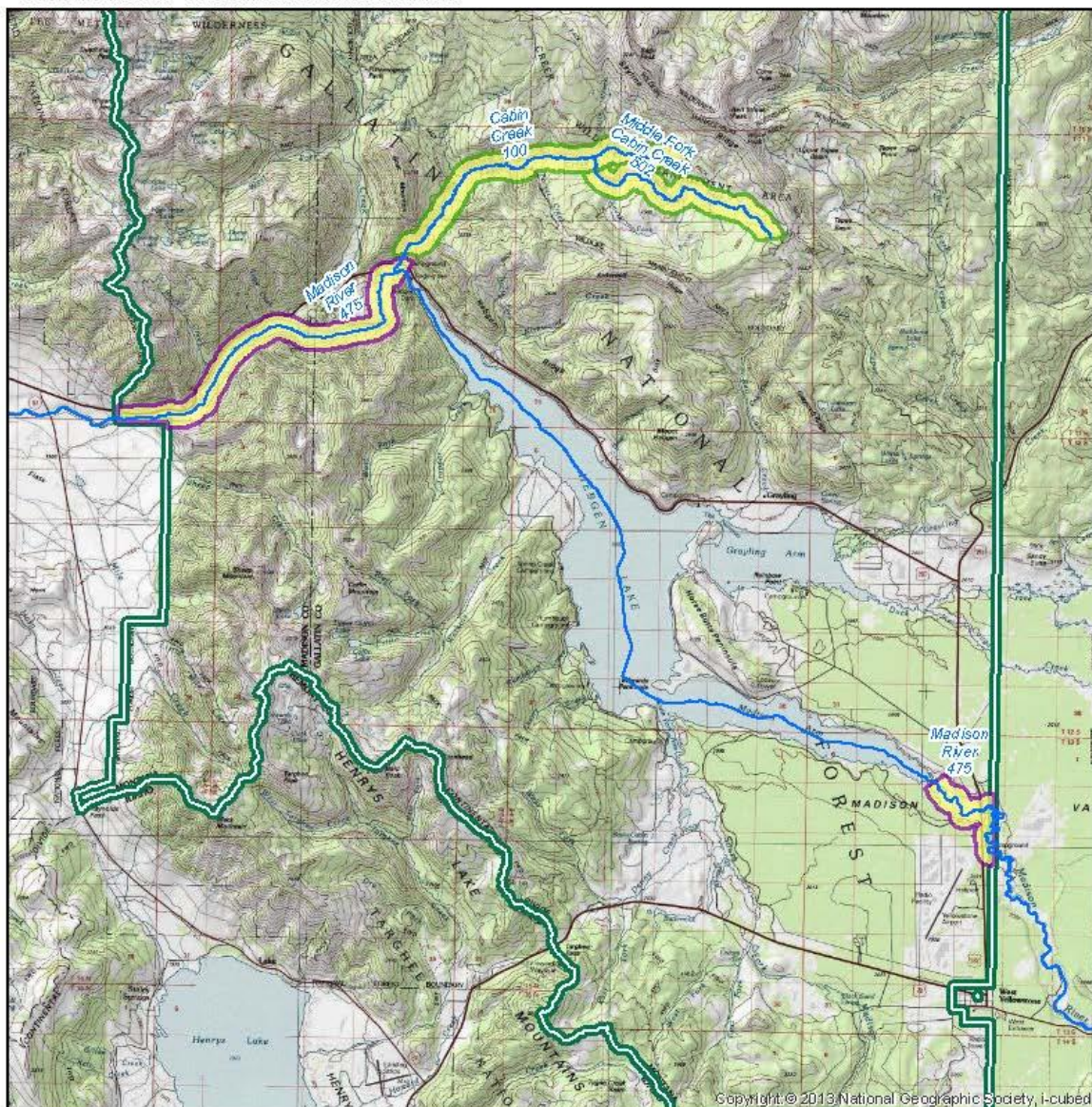
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Madison River #475, Hebgen Lake RD
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	Wildlife ORVs are in Segment 1 and portion of Segment 2 described. Madison River inlet at Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake and the Madison River between Hebgen and Quake Lake are important wintering areas for large numbers of Trumpeter Swans. Within the region of comparison, this river stands out due to its strategic importance for wintering trumpeter swans.
Geology	Geology ORV is located only in Segment 2. Within the Region of Comparison, the outstanding geologic resource values within this stream segment are related to unique, rare or exemplary examples of earthquake landslides and debris blocking a naturally flowing river and creating a lake.
Heritage	Heritage ORVs are in both segments. Part of the Interpretive Theme for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail representing “good times on the Trail” for Bannock and Shoshone tribes who were one of many groups that used the Trail. The Trail uses the Madison River corridor as it enters into the Hebgen Basin. This is a particularly intriguing interface of Plains/Basin artifact assemblages thought to be a crossroads for these cultures.
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: *Madison River*

Geographic Area: *Madison, Gallatin, and Henrys Lake Mountains*

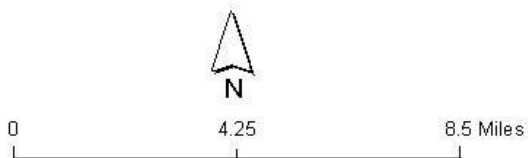
HUC10 Name: *Headwaters Madison River*



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National Forest System Boundary

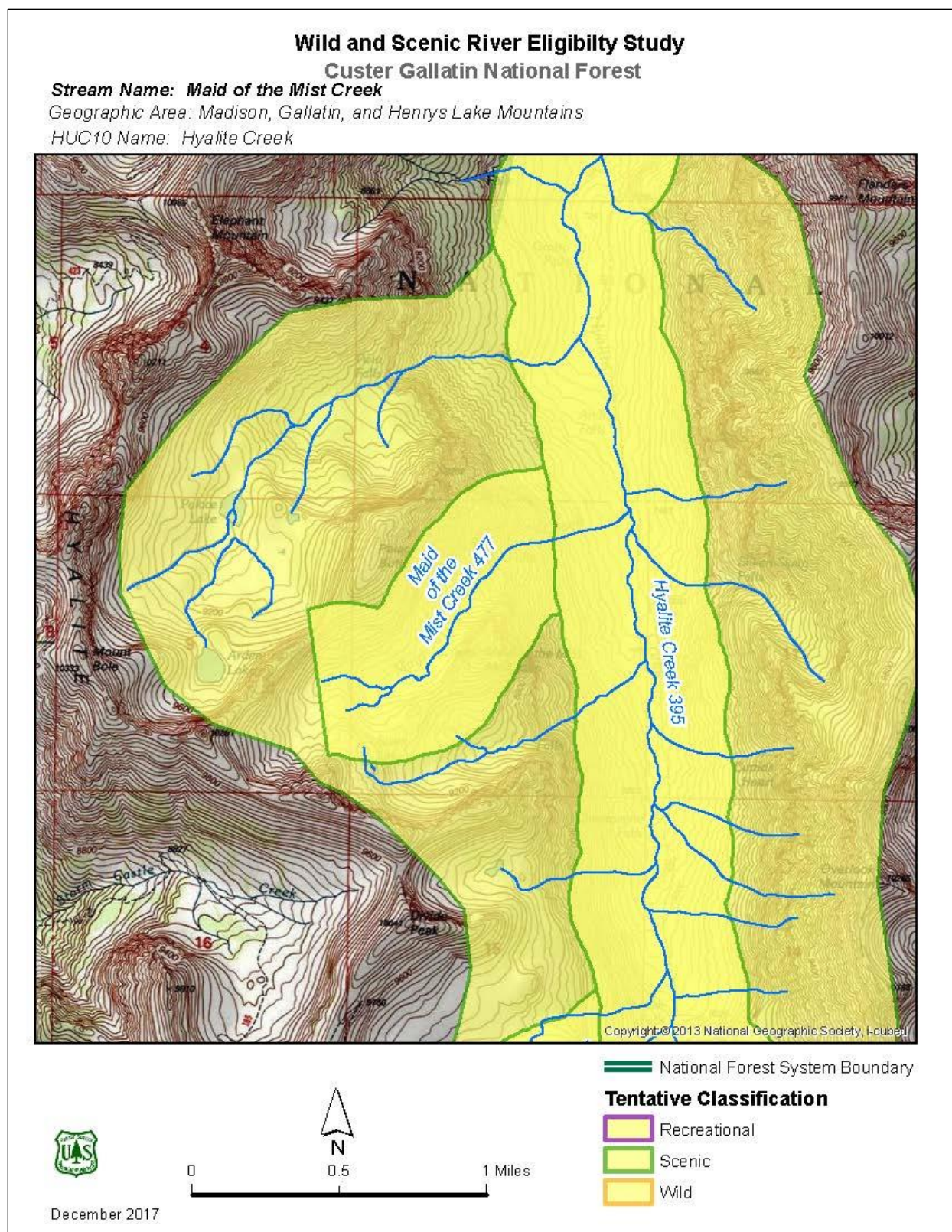
Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

Maid of the Mist #477

Table E-19. Maid of the Mist #477, Bozeman RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Maid of the Mist #477, Bozeman RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Scenic- Headwaters to junction with Hyalite Creek
Miles of each Segment	Total NF Miles 1.38
Tentative Classification	Scenic
Counties	Gallatin County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	This river is Included in scenery ORV description For Hyalite Creek #395.
Recreation	<p>The area described as Upper Hyalite for the recreation ORV includes the main stem of Hyalite Creek beginning at Grotto Falls TH, and is an area that includes the named tributaries of Shower Creek and Maid of the Mist. The areas also includes all of the unnamed tributaries that contribute to the unique recreation opportunity; including short off trail hikes, photography and world renowned ice climbing.</p> <p>The Hyalite River corridor is the most heavily visited recreation complex in Region one of Montana. Upper Hyalite, the area above the dam and reservoir to the headwaters provides exemplary recreation opportunity within the region of comparison.</p> <p>Hyalite Creek itself is a popular trail based opportunity, with many side hikes to unique and densely concentrated waterfalls, and hike along the creek to the lake a major destination. The concentration of waterfalls create rare and exemplary conditions for ice climbing; making this area a destination in the GYA and beyond for a wide range of climbers.</p>
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



Middle Fork Cabin Creek #502

Table E-20. Middle Fork Cabin Creek #502, Hebgen Lake RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Middle Fork Cabin Creek #502, Hebgen Lake RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	From headwaters to confluence with main stem Cabin Creek
Miles of each Segment	Scenic- 5.1 miles
Tentative Classification	Scenic
Counties	Gallatin County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Western Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A constructed barrier exists on the main stem of Cabin Creek to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

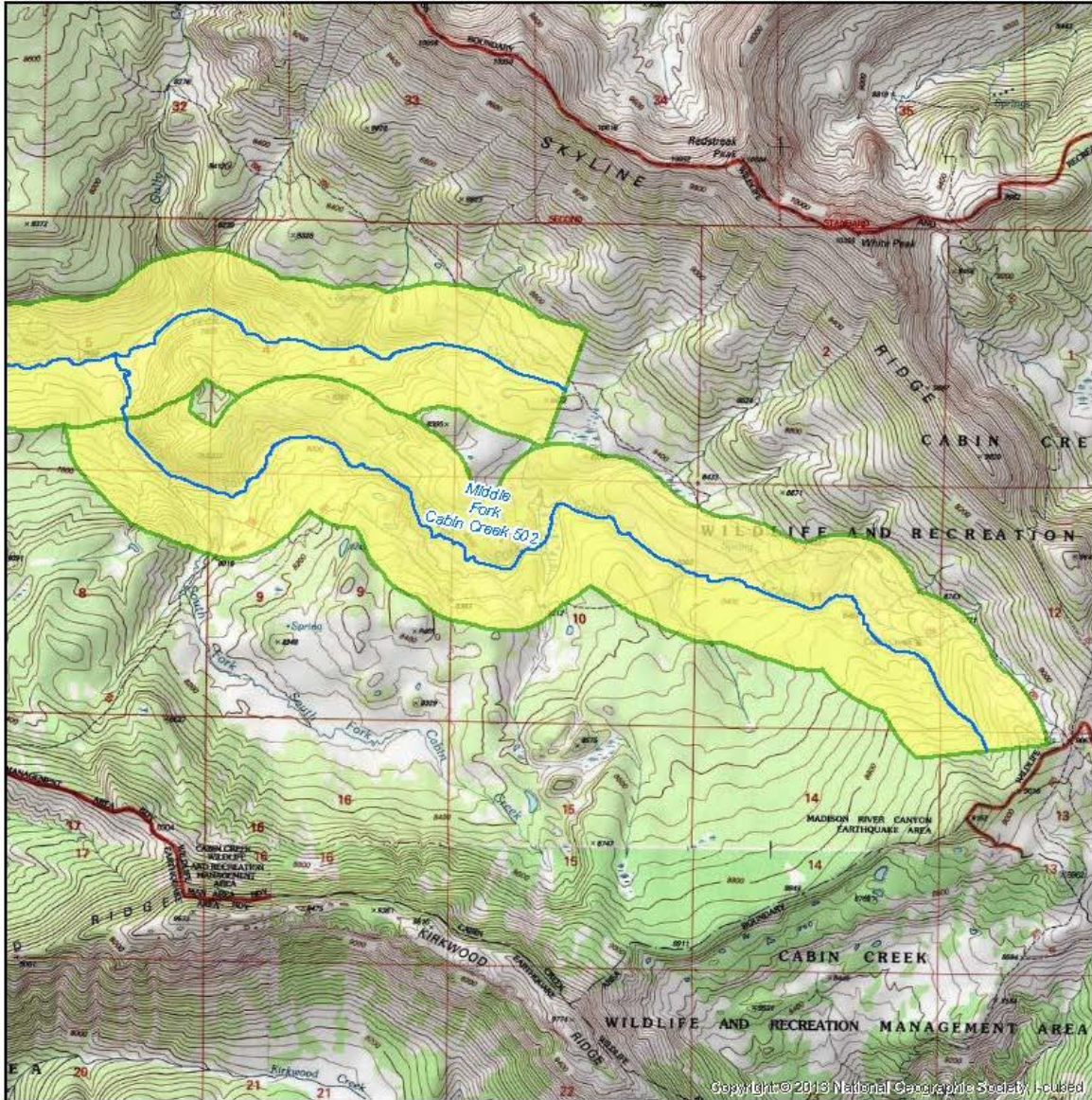
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Middle Fork Cabin Creek

Geographic Area: Madison, Gallatin, and Henrys Lake Mountains

HUC10 Name: Earthquake Lake-Madison River



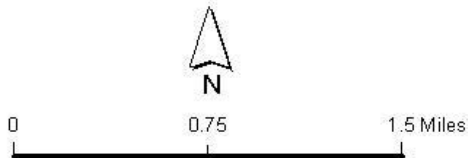
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Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



December 2017



Pine Creek #626

Table E-21. Pine Creek #626, Yellowstone RD

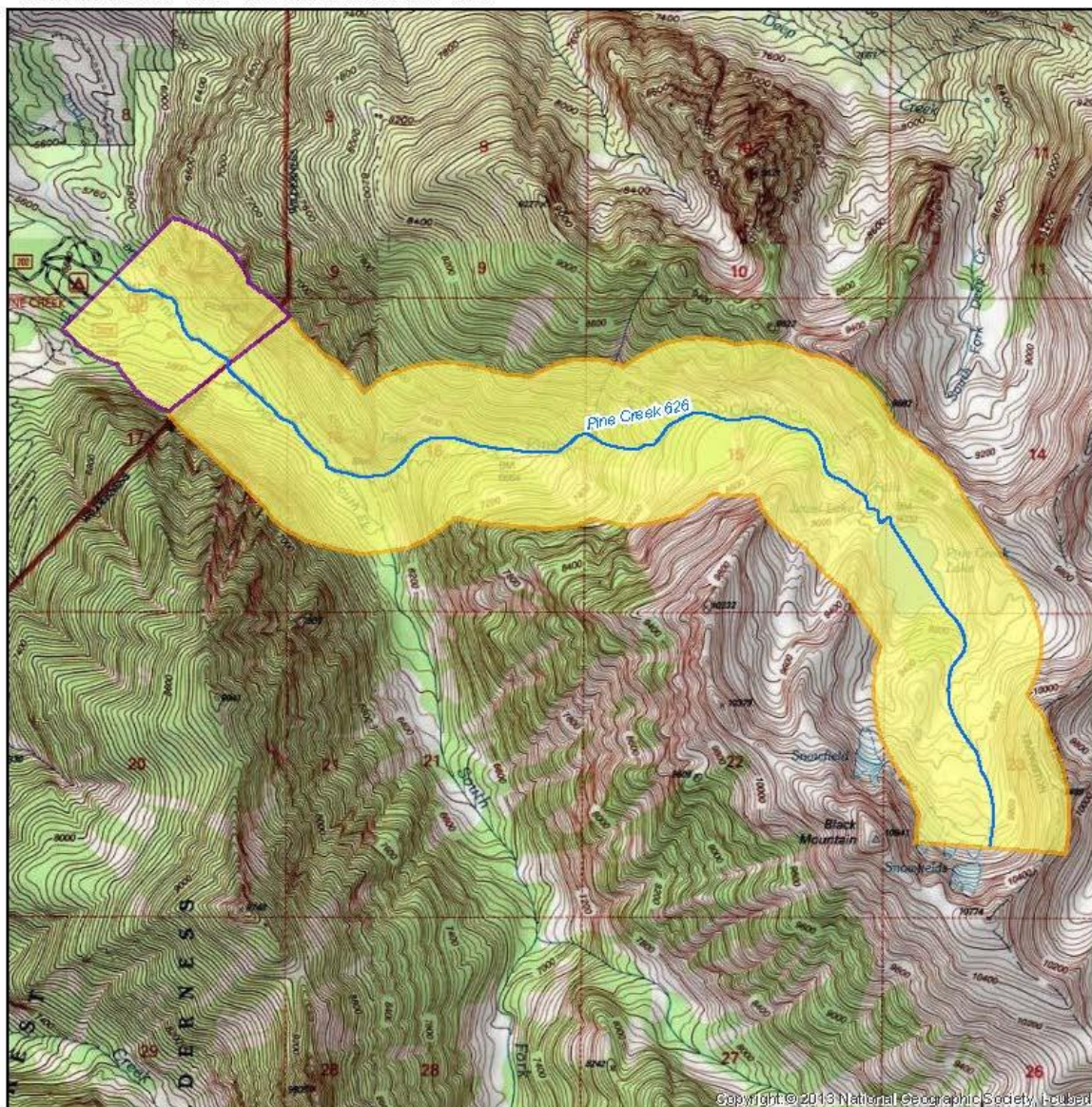
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Pine Creek #626, Yellowstone RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild- from headwaters to wilderness boundary Recreational- from wilderness boundary to Pine Creek trailhead
Miles of each Segment	Wild= 3.90 Miles Recreational=0.51 Miles
Tentative Classification	Wild, Recreational
Counties	Park County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	Pine Creek is an exemplary, visually striking creek that descends from a spectacular alpine glacial cirque down to the dense conifer forest. Pine Creek Falls is a cascade that, in high water, dramatically splits and thunders around a rock outcrop, sending up mist into the surrounding dense conifers that frame the waterfall. Higher up, the creek tumbles and cascades down a steep and rugged glacial-carved valley bounded by cliffs, talus slopes and avalanche chutes. The upper part of the creek is a stunning chain of three classic glacial lakes, waterfalls, headwalls and alpine meadows, and small bands of dense conifer trees. The outlet of Pine Creek Lake is defined by a remarkable glacier-smoothed granite slabs surrounded by lush alpine tarns full of wildflowers. Scenery ORV is both in Wild and Scenic
Recreation	Recreation ORV applies above the falls to the trailhead. Pine Creek Falls is one of the most popular recreation destinations in the Paradise valley and leading into the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The first piece of the Pine Creek trail, leads to the falls which is a popular destination for hikers and photographers. The trail closely follows the creek and when out of view, it can still be heard cascading downstream. Pine Creek Falls is a tall, narrow waterfall that spreads out as it plunges over rock outcroppings. The opportunity for recreationists to experience powerful waterfalls after a relatively short, family friendly hike, in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness is a rare and unique opportunity on the Custer Gallatin and within the region of comparison.
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV


Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: Pine Creek

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths


HUC10 Name: Trail Creek-Yellowstone River



 National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

 Recreational

 Scenic

 Wild



0 0.5 1 Miles

December 2017

Rock Creek #668

Table E-22. Rock Creek #668, Beartooth RD

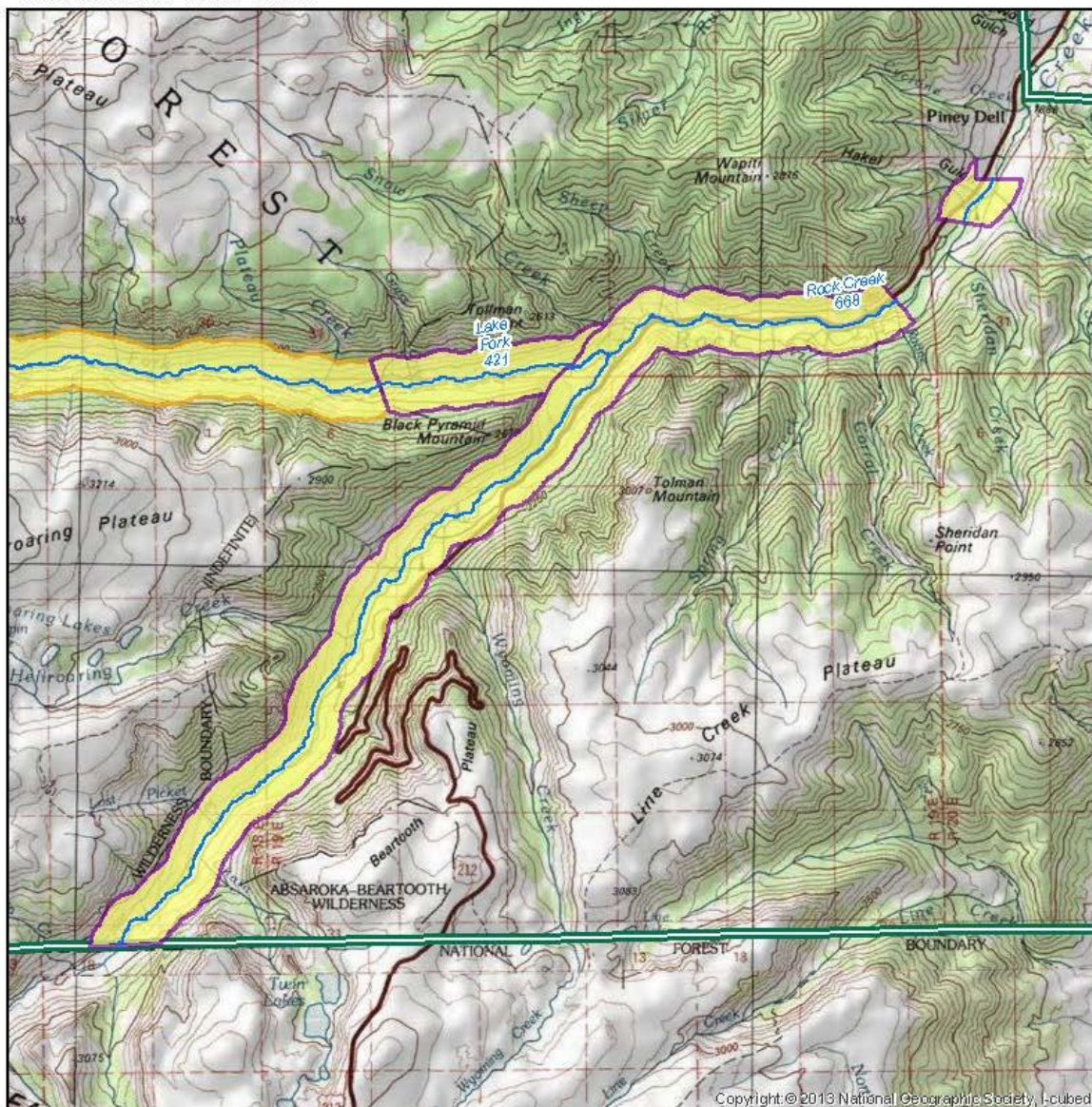
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Rock Creek #668, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery, Heritage
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Recreational- From Montana/Wyoming state boundary to National Forest boundary, excluding private lands.
Miles of each Segment	Recreational = 11.4 miles, excludes private lands
Tentative Classification	Recreational
Counties	Carbon, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes, Custer National Forest Plan and Amendment #2
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	From Glacier Lake downstream to its confluence with the Lake Fork Below Glacier Lake, the creek spectacularly tumbles over steep exposed granite bedrock and boulders in a series of waterfalls and cascades. As it passes through its classic U-shaped glacially carved valley, the creek alternates from pressing up against the base of the steep slopes and talus fields of one side, then the other. It provides an exemplary variety and juxtaposition of boulder-strewn, deciduous shrub and conifer tree-lined creek with well-defined but varied edges and moderate rapids, to a meandering, often-divided creek passing through shrubs and trees that become alive with color in the autumn. Because of the vividness, magnitude and juxtaposition of these visual elements, Rock Creek, especially in its upper stretches, is among the most outstandingly scenic waterways in the Greater Yellowstone Area and draws visitors from not only the GYA but from across the country.
Recreation	<p>The Rock Creek Corridor is an impressive and unique destination for recreationists to partake in river based recreation within the region of comparison. While many recreation sites do occur within river corridors on the forest or within the region of comparison the Rock Creek corridor and its density and variety of recreation opportunities specifically tied to the creek make it exemplary.</p> <p>The river corridor is home to campgrounds, organizational camps, recreation residences, picnic areas, heavy dispersed camping and trailheads all of which rely on the river corridor for their unique opportunity. The Rock Creek Corridor is a popular destination for most type of water based recreation including swimming, wading, relaxing and fly fishing.</p>
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	Crow aboriginal trail and sites marking the Red Lodge battle between the Shoshone and Crow Tribes.
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: Rock Creek #668

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

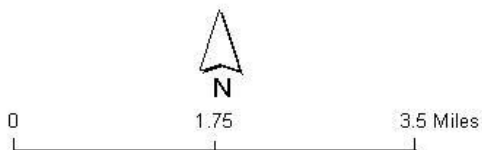
HUC10 Name: Rock Creek



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National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

Rock Creek #665

Table E-23. Rock Creek #665, Gardiner RD

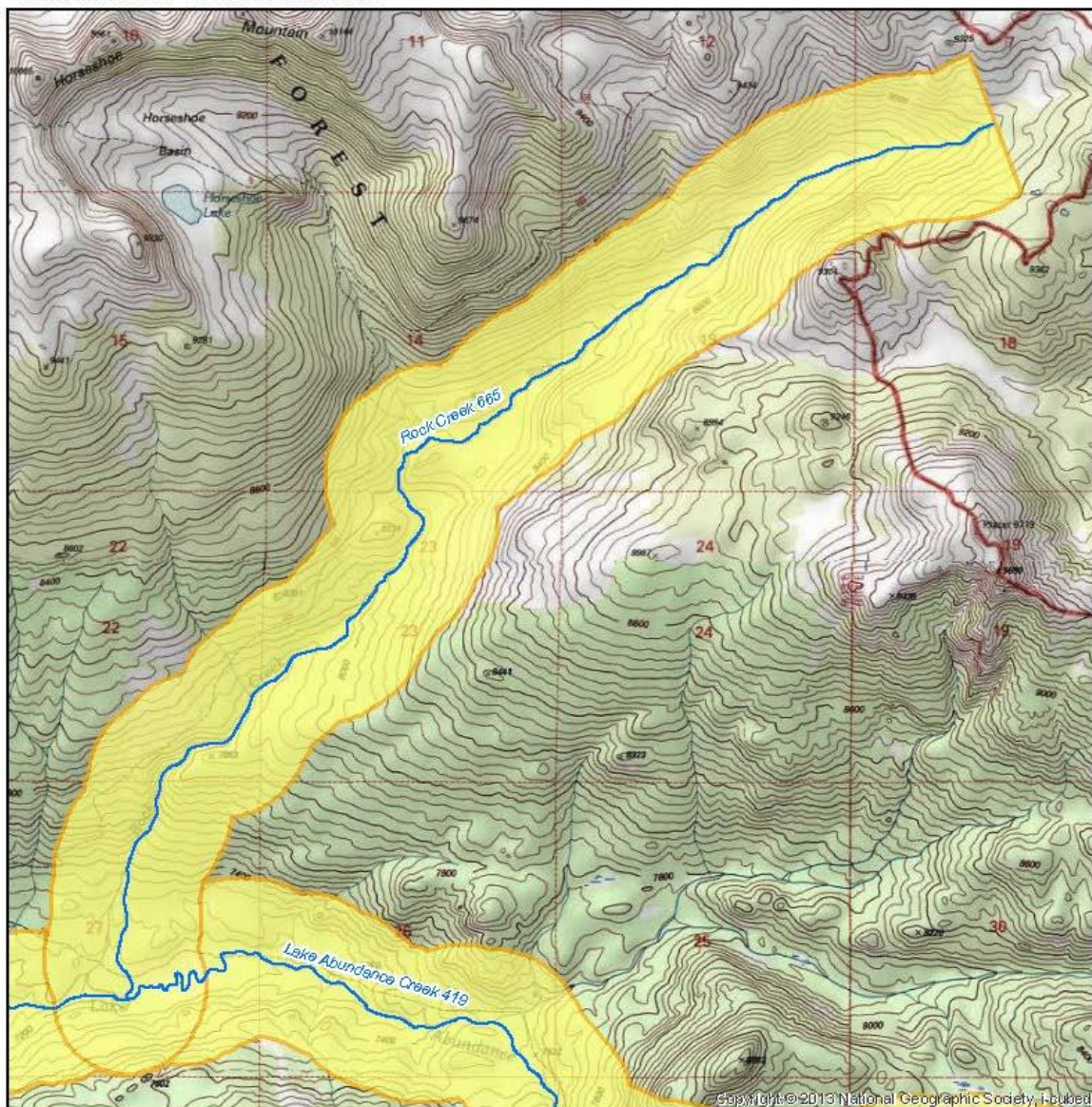
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Rock Creek #665, Gardiner RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild – From headwaters to junction with Lake Abundance Creek.
Miles of each Segment	Total NF Miles 4.83
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Park County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A natural barrier exists to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: Rock Creek #665

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: Lower Lamar River



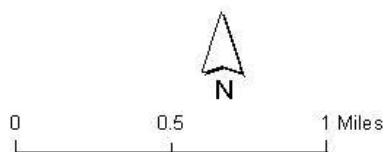
— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



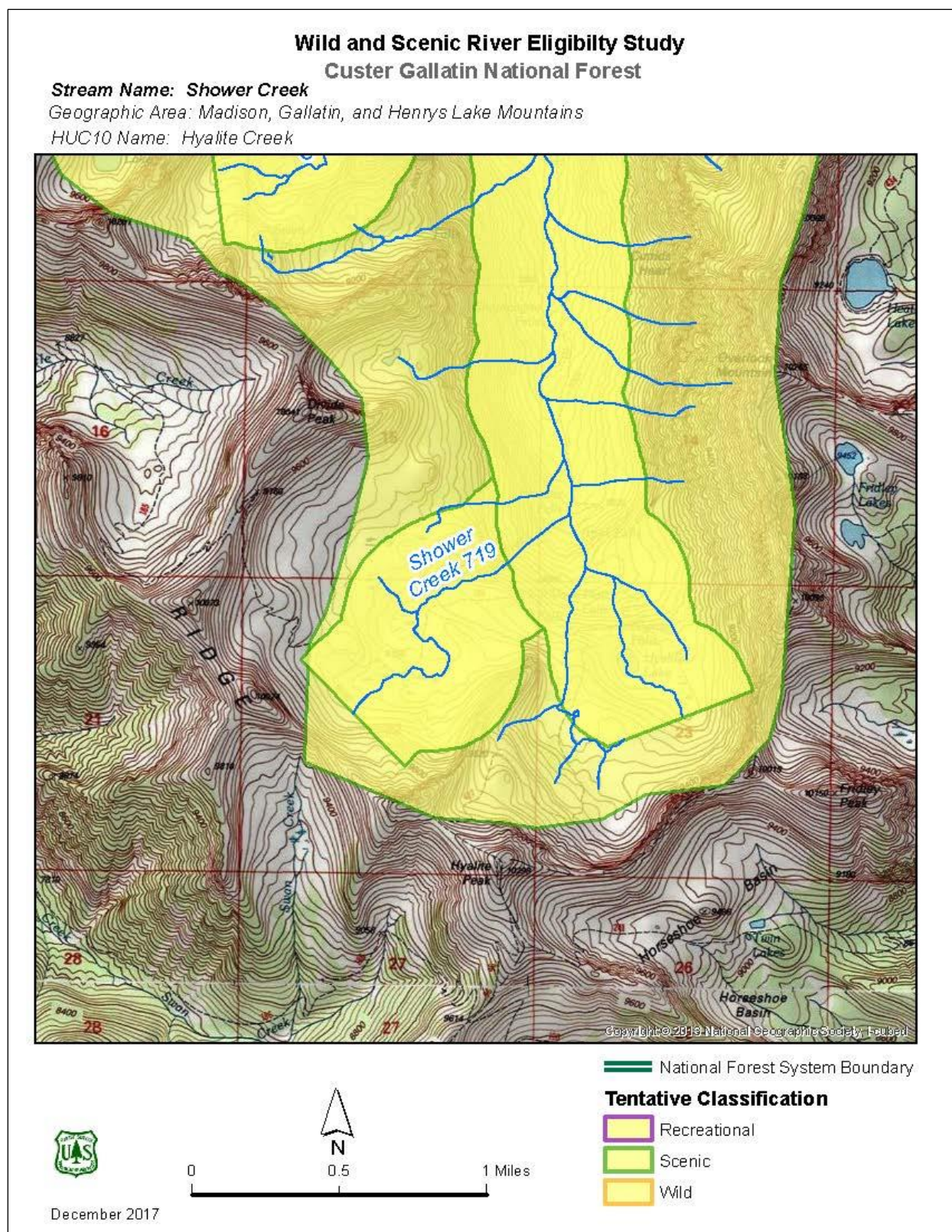
December 2017



Shower Creek # 719

Table E-24. Shower Creek # 719, Bozeman RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Shower Creek # 719, Bozeman RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Scenic-Headwaters to junction with Hyalite Creek
Miles of each Segment	Scenic- 1.34
Tentative Classification	Scenic
Counties	Gallatin County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	This river is included in scenery ORV description for Hyalite Creek #395.
Recreation	<p>The area described as Upper Hyalite for the recreation ORV includes the main stem of Hyalite Creek beginning at Grotto Falls TH, and is an area that includes the named tributaries of Shower Creek and Maid of the Mist. The areas also includes all of the unnamed tributaries that contribute to the unique recreation opportunity; including short off trail hikes, photography and world renowned ice climbing.</p> <p>The Hyalite River corridor is the most heavily visited recreation complex in Region one of Montana. Upper Hyalite, the area above the dam and reservoir to the headwaters provides exemplary recreation opportunity within the region of comparison.</p> <p>Hyalite Creek itself is a popular trail based opportunity, with many side hikes to unique and densely concentrated waterfalls, and hike along the creek to the lake a major destination. The concentration of waterfalls create rare and exemplary conditions for ice climbing; making this area a destination in the GYA and beyond for a wide range of climbers.</p>
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



Slough Creek #737, and Un-Named Tributaries

Table E-25. Slough Creek #737, and un-named tributaries, Gardiner RD

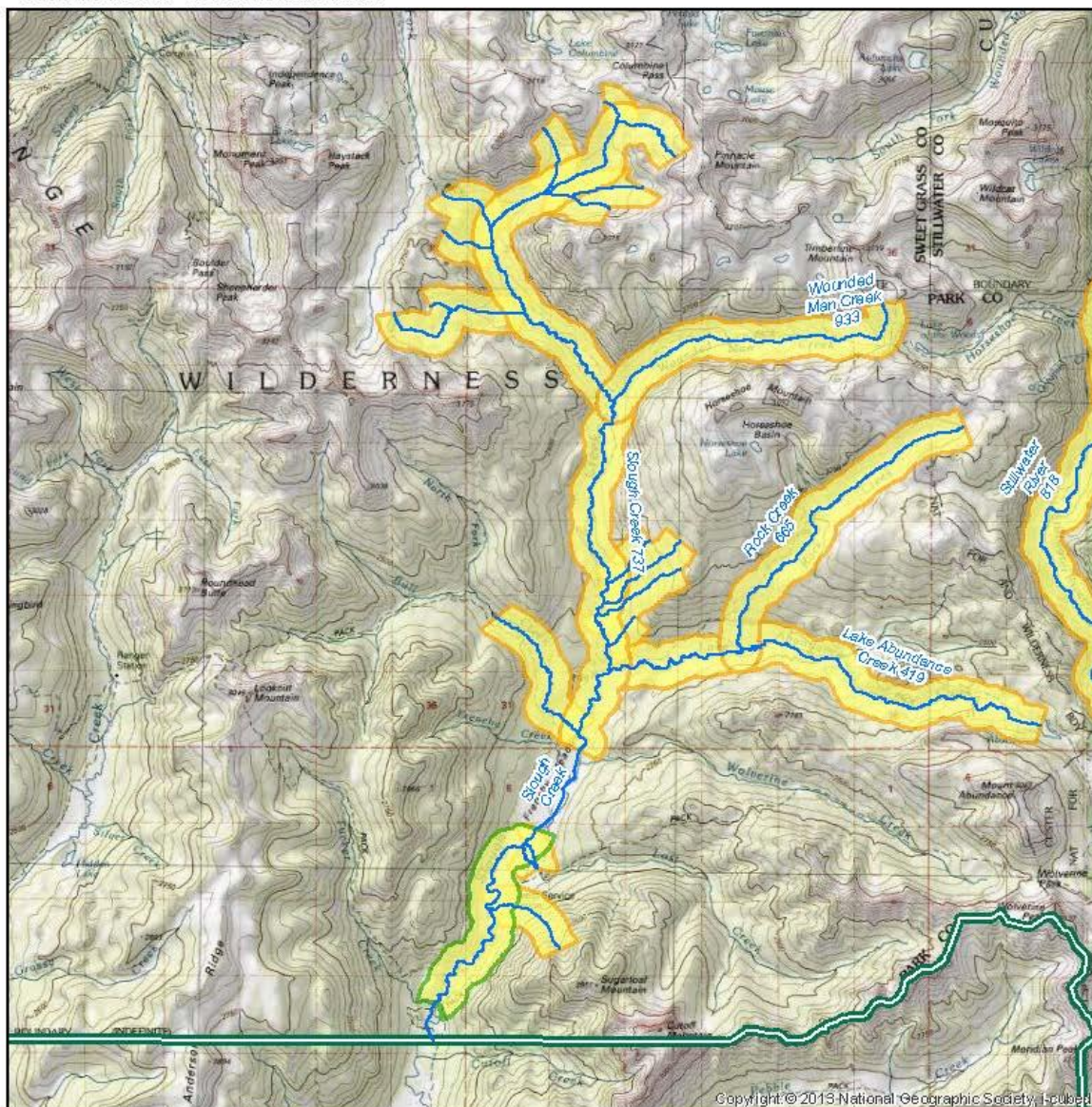
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Slough Creek #737, and un-named tributaries, Gardiner RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild-From Headwaters to north side of private parcel known as Frenchys Meadow. Scenic-From south side of Frenchys Meadow to north side of Silver Tip Ranch located on southern boundary of AB Wilderness. Excludes private lands.
Miles of each Segment	Total NF Miles 16.31
Tentative Classification	Wild= 12.65 Miles Scenic= 3.66 Miles
Counties	Park and Sweet Grass Counties, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A natural barrier exists to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: Slough Creek

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: Lower Lamar River



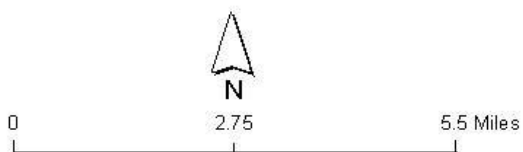
— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



December 2017



Stillwater River #818

Table E-26. Stillwater River #818, Beartooth RD

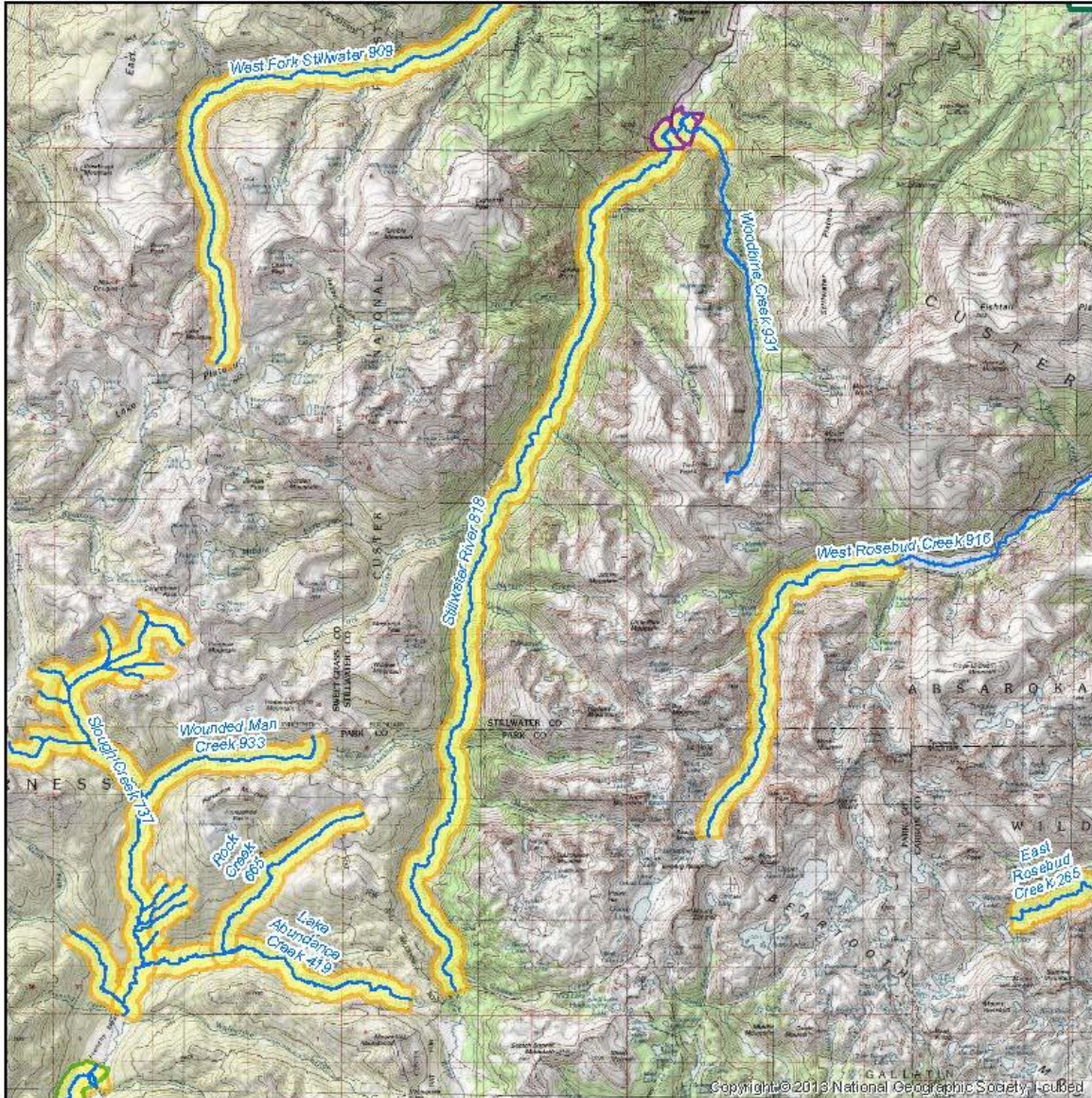
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Stillwater River #818, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Wild segment- has both Recreation and Scenery as ORVs Recreational segment -Recreation ORV only
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild-Wilderness boundary near Cooke City to Woodbine Trailhead Recreational-Woodbine Trailhead to Beartooth Ranch in T 5S, R15 E, Sec 32.
Miles of each Segment	Wild= 22 Miles Recreational= 1.25 Miles
Tentative Classification	Wild, Recreational
Counties	Stillwater and Park, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes, Custer National Forest Plan and Amendment
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	<p>Immediately upstream of the Forest Service Woodbine Trailhead, this river awes viewers with a unique narrow, rocky, cliff-confined gorge full of thundering rapids and immense boulders. Along its length, sections of rocky rapids are juxtaposed with the meandering, braiding and stillness, such as at Sioux Charley Lake and other areas where the river spreads out, slows down and is edged with deciduous shrubs and trees that light up in autumn, contrasting with the darker conifers. The Stillwater offers exemplary gorges, curving around rugged exposed rocky knobs dotted with conifer trees, choked in places with boulders, rapids and tree trunks that have been swept down the adjacent avalanche chutes.</p> <p>Scenery- this ORV is in the Wild segment, from confluence with Horseshoe Creek to Woodbine Trailhead.</p>
Recreation	<p>The Stillwater River is considered a fly fishing destination within the GYA, drawing fisherman from within and from outside of the region of comparison to experience this exemplary fishing opportunity. The Stillwater also provides a somewhat unique spring technical whitewater boating opportunity for the Forest and within the GYA; making it a destination paddle.</p> <p>The Upper Stillwater trail is also a popular recreation destination within the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, the GYA and beyond for backpackers and hikers experiencing the exemplary recreation along the river. This ORV is in both the Wild and Recreational segment.</p>
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Stillwater River

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: Headwaters Stillwater River



December 2017



0 4.25 8.5 Miles

 National Forest System Boundary

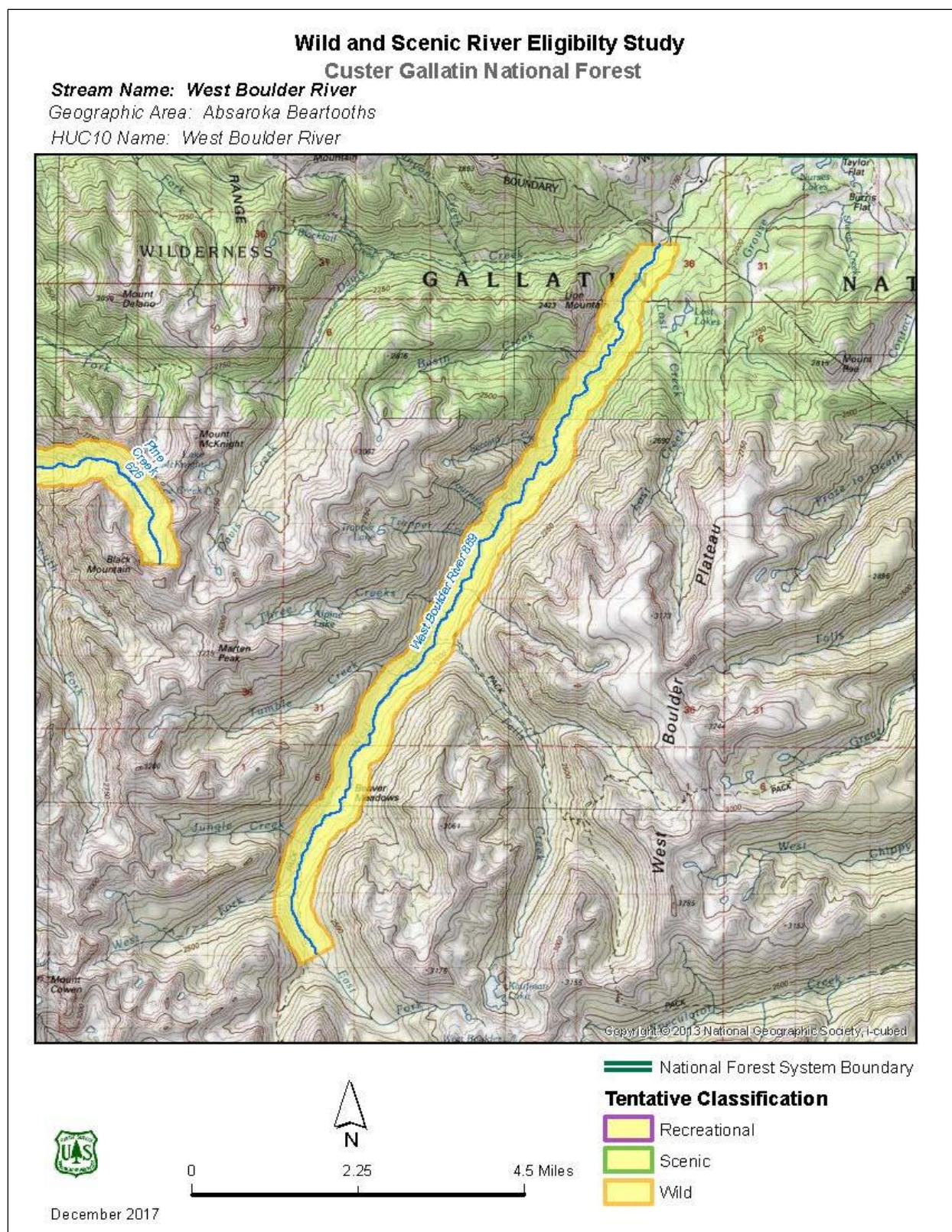
Tentative Classification

-  Recreational
-  Scenic
-  Wild

West Boulder River #889

Table E-27. West Boulder River #889, Yellowstone RD

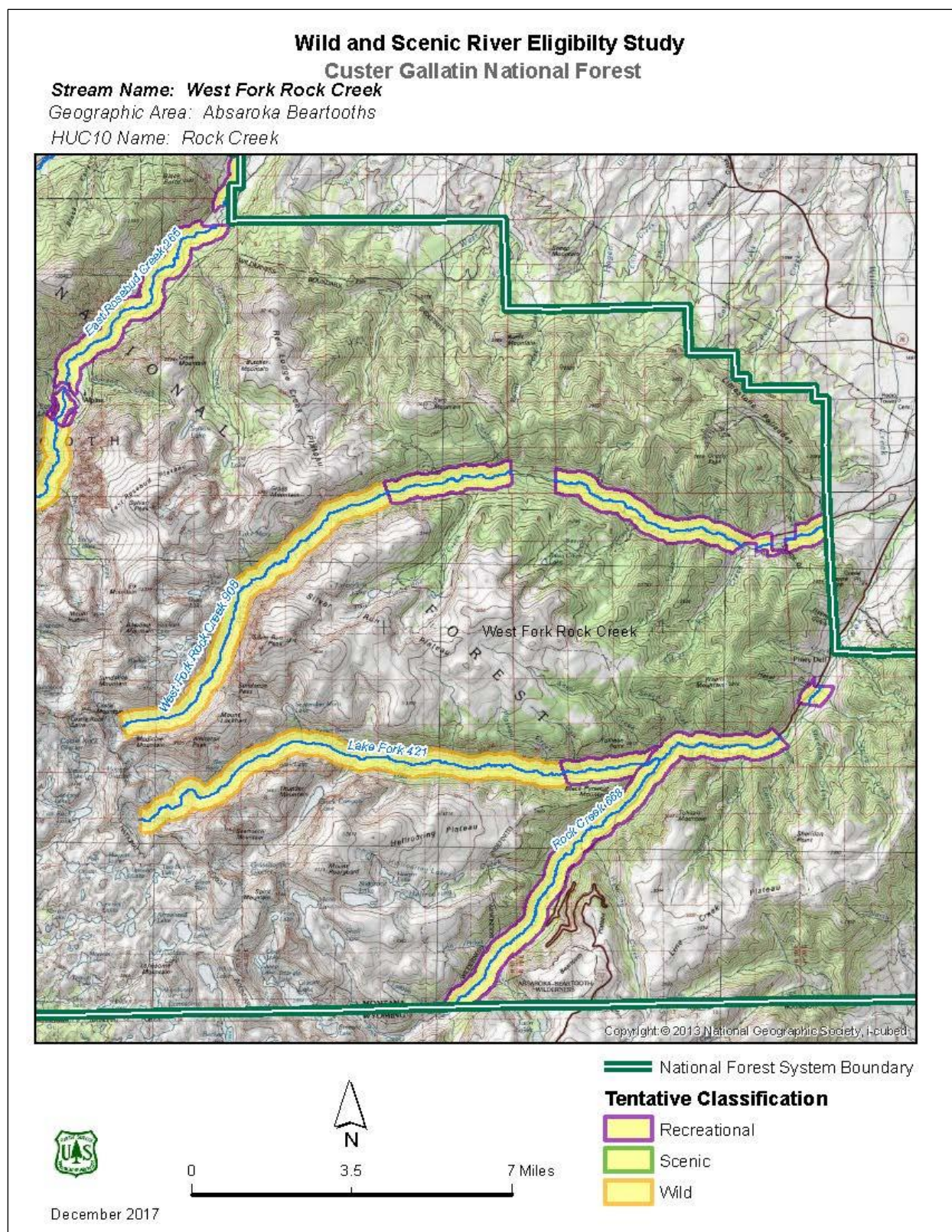
River Name, Number, Ranger District	West Boulder River #889, Yellowstone RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild- From headwaters to wilderness boundary
Miles of each Segment	Wild- 12.31 Miles
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Park County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	The West Boulder River is considered a fly fishing destination within the GYA, drawing fisherman from within and from outside of the region of comparison to experience this exemplary fishing opportunity. The West Boulder also provides a somewhat unique Spring technical whitewater boating opportunity for the Forest and within the GYA; making it a destination paddle
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV



West Fork Rock Creek #908

Table E-28. West Fork Rock Creek #908, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	West Fork Rock Creek #908, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Heritage, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild= From headwaters to wilderness boundary Recreational- From Wilderness boundary to Forest boundary, excluding private lands
Miles of each Segment	Wild= 8.93 miles Recreational= 9.23 miles
Tentative Classification	Wild, Recreational
Counties	Carbon, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes, Custer National Forest Plan and Amendment #2
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	From its headwaters to the West Fork Trailhead at the ABW boundary: This section displays an exemplary transition and variety from a small alpine stream at its headwaters at the base of Castle Mountain, with associated chain of exemplary glacially-scoured ponds, spectacular cascades and waterfalls, then down across the bases of steep rock glaciers and talus fields, through slower flatter sections in subalpine meadows and meanders, most notably Quinnebaugh Meadows. Especially in the flatter sections, the deciduous shrubs, grasses and trees provide spectacular autumn color contrast with the dark conifer trees and early season snow.
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	Historic recreation corridor with Camp Senia National Register District, Wild Bill Lake, Timbercrest Girl Scout Camp and Rock Creek Ranger Station (Listed on the National Register). This ORV is in the recreational segment.
Other	No ORV



West Fork Stillwater River #909

Table E-29. West Fork Stillwater River #909, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	West Fork Stillwater River #909, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild- Headwaters to wilderness boundary
Miles of each Segment	Wild- 14.02 miles
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Stillwater, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	From its headwaters downstream to Initial Creek Campground: Exemplary display of contrast between spread-out, meandering and braided sections through dense forests, wetlands and open meadows, such as Breakneck Meadows, to sections where the river is confined by sheer rock cliffs, large glacial boulders along the base of steep avalanche chutes, causing dynamic water movement and cascades, with associated roaring water sounds.
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

West Rosebud Creek

Table E-30. West Rosebud Creek #916, Beartooth RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	West Rosebud Creek #916, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild- From headwaters to Wilderness boundary.
Miles of each Segment	Total NF Miles 9.0 miles
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Stillwater, Park and Carbon Counties, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	Inside the ABW from its headwaters near Grasshopper Glacier, downstream to Mystic Reservoir: long stretches of dynamic, thundering whitewater and cascades, full of boulders, punctuated by tree trunks carried down adjacent avalanche chutes lined with deciduous vegetation that provide exciting autumn color contrasts. Steam channels are confined by dramatic immense rock cliffs, edged with conifers, some leaning over and visually framing the river. Whitewater sections are interspersed and contrasted with wider, slower, quieter sections that in some places spread out into lush subalpine wetlands and lakes surrounded by exemplary glacial-scoured rock cliffs and knobs and clumps of conifer trees. Viewing of this section is easy from the popular developed trail.
Recreation	The West Rosebud Creek and Mystic Lake are popular, high visitation recreation destinations on the Custer Gallatin and within the GYA and beyond for fisherman, backpackers and hikers experiencing the exemplary trail based recreation to access the chain of lakes along the creek and into the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness.
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

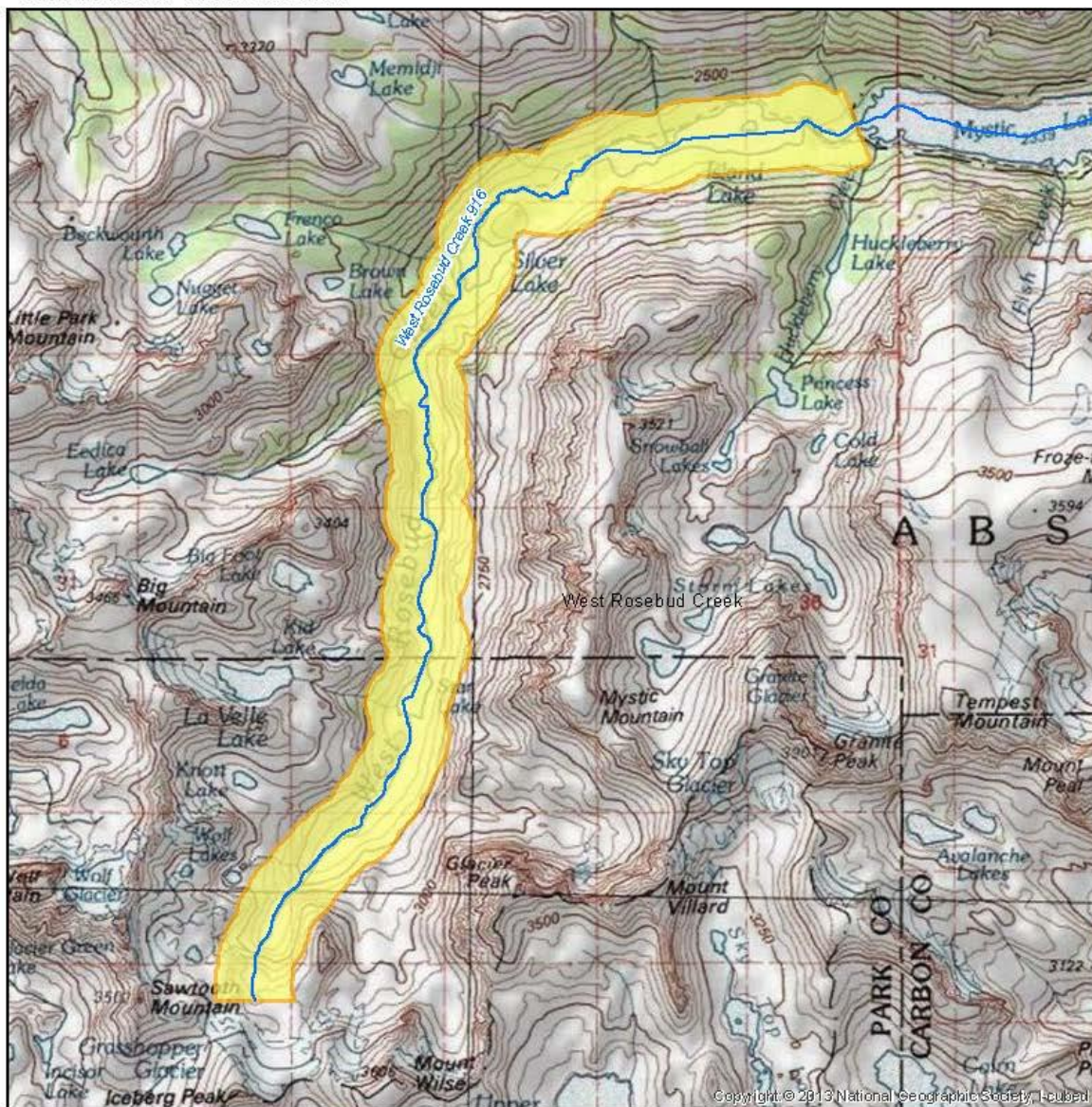
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: West Rosebud Creek

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

HUC10 Name: Rosebud Creek

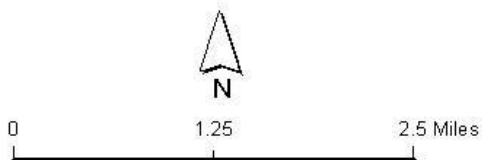
River Number: 916



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December 2017



National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

Woodbine Creek #931

Table E-31. Woodbine Creek #931, Beartooth RD

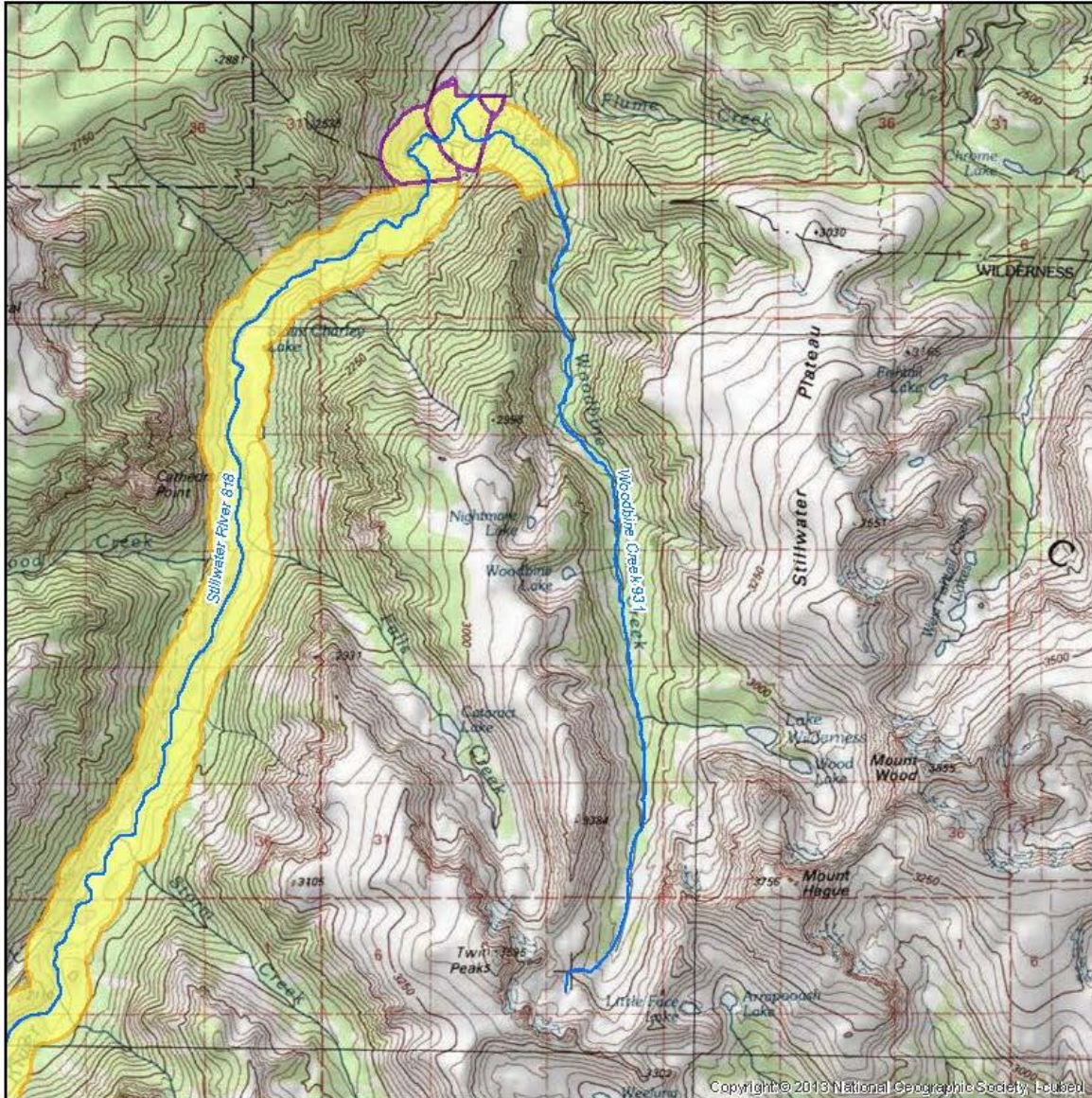
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Woodbine Creek #931, Beartooth RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	From ½ mile above Woodbine Waterfall to trailhead at confluence of Stillwater.
Miles of each Segment	Wild= 0.86 miles Recreational= 0.39 miles
Tentative Classification	Wilderness, Recreational
Counties	Stillwater County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	For the scenery ORV, this only covers approximately 0.75 miles of Woodbine Creek above its confluence with the Stillwater River, specifically the Woodbine Falls segment: Woodbine Falls are easily accessible on the popular developed trail from adjacent Woodbine Campground. A spectacular series of thunderous drops and plunges, the falls are confined by sheer granite cliffs. The juxtaposition of the conifer and deciduous vegetation-covered cliffs on one side, the exposed granite cliffs on the other, with the boulder-studded frothy falls in between forms an exciting scene.
Recreation	Woodbine Falls is a long, stunning freefalling waterfall that plunges down Woodbine Creek, a tributary of the Stillwater River. The short Woodbine Falls trail, a popular destination for hikers and photographers, includes a lookout below the falls, which allows recreationist to experience the thunderous falls, which can be felt from the trail. The opportunity for recreationists to experience powerful waterfalls closely is relatively unique on the Custer Gallatin and within the region of comparison.
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: Woodbine Creek

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths

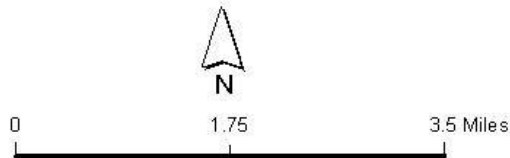
HUC10 Name: Headwaters Stillwater River



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National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

Wounded Man Creek #933

Table E-32. Wounded Man Creek #933, Gardiner RD

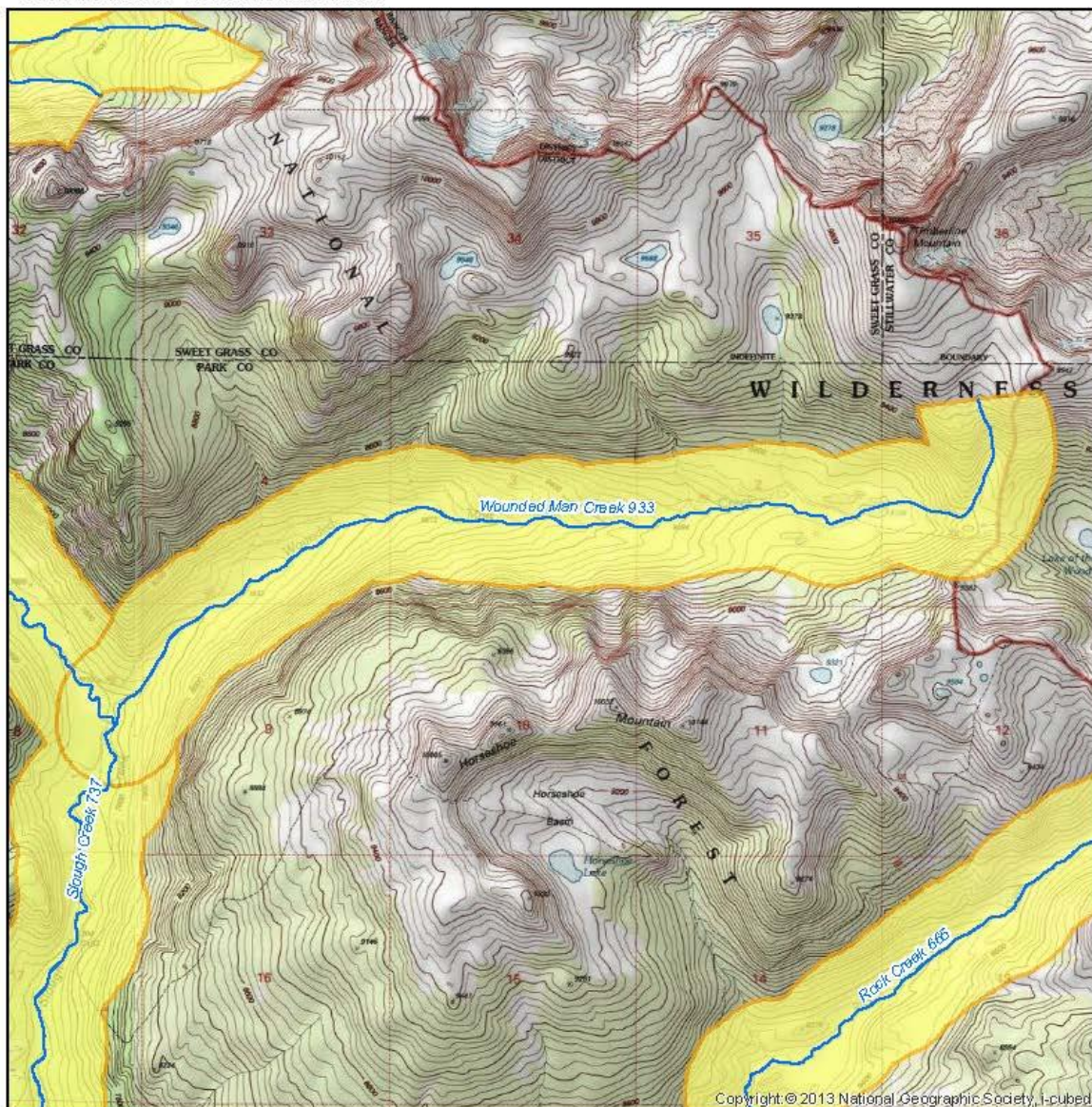
River Name, Number, Ranger District	Wounded Man Creek #933, Gardiner RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Fisheries
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	Wild- From headwaters to junction of Slough Creek. This stream is located completely within the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness.
Miles of each Segment	Total NF Miles 4.48
Tentative Classification	Wild
Counties	Park County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	No
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Fisheries	High quality habitat relative to the region of comparison. Pure Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout population. No exotics. A natural barrier exists to keep out non-native species.
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	No ORV
Other	No ORV

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study **Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Stream Name: *Wounded Man Creek*

Geographic Area: *Absaroka Beartooths*

HUC10 Name: *Lower Lamar River*



— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



0 0.75 1.5 Miles

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Yellowstone River #940

Table E-33. Yellowstone River #940, Gardiner RD

River Name, Number, Ranger District	Yellowstone River #940, Gardiner RD
Forest Plan Geographic Area	Most in Madison, Gallatin and Henrys Lake Mountains , some in Absaroka Beartooth Mountains
Is River Free-Flowing?	Yes
Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery, Heritage
Region of Comparison	Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) plus Pryor Mountains
Eligible Segments	From the boundary of Yellowstone National Park near Gardiner, Montana, downstream to National Forest boundary just beyond Yankee Jim Canyon.
Miles of each Segment	This river enters and leaves national forest boundaries repeatedly. In parts, one shore is NF and the other side of the shore is other ownership. Miles were calculated where one or both shores were on National Forest shorelines which equaled 9.04 miles. There were 4.67 miles where both shores are private. Then 3.45 miles where one shore was National Park Service and the other side privately owned.
Tentative Classification	Recreational
Counties	Park County, MT
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies?	Yes
ORV	Resource Description
Scenery	This segment extends from where the river leaves Yellowstone NP in the town of Gardiner, to the north where it leaves the CGNF just north of Canyon Campground. There is residential and other development visible on both sides from the river that is, however, not visually dominant due to most of it being well above viewers, blocked by vegetation or somewhat set back from the river's edge. Views of regional landmarks, such as Electric Peak and Devils Slide heighten the river experience when framed by the river banks and cottonwood trees. This upper stretch, while beautiful due to the contrast between the narrow vegetation strip right at the water's edge and the surrounding more barren sloping gravel and boulder embankments, the special visual feature along this river segment is Yankee Jim Canyon. In this approximate 4-5 mile stretch, the canyon walls pinch in and rise steeply on both sides of the river as spectacular broken gneiss cliffs and steep talus slopes confine the river channel. The banks and the river are choked with huge, house-size boulders, forming visually exciting rapids. Adding more unique visual character, remnants of the historic toll road rock work and rail bed are somewhat visible up along the western wall of the canyon.
Recreation	The Yellowstone River is the longest free flowing river in the lower 48 and is a world renowned destination for all types of water based recreation. The portions of the river of the Forest provide tremendous opportunity for fishing, recreational boating, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and photography. Sections of this stretch on the Forest include beginner to intermediate boating, while Yankee Jim Canyon is perhaps the most popular and includes technical whitewater that is relatively rare and unique within the GYA and beyond. The Yellowstone River is considered a fly fishing destination within the GYA and beyond, drawing recreationists from within and from outside of the region of comparison to experience this exemplary fishing opportunity.
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Geology	No ORV
Heritage	Historic travel corridor along the river with historic trails and railroad that once paralleled the river, and associated historic sites, ghost towns, and mines.
Other	No ORV

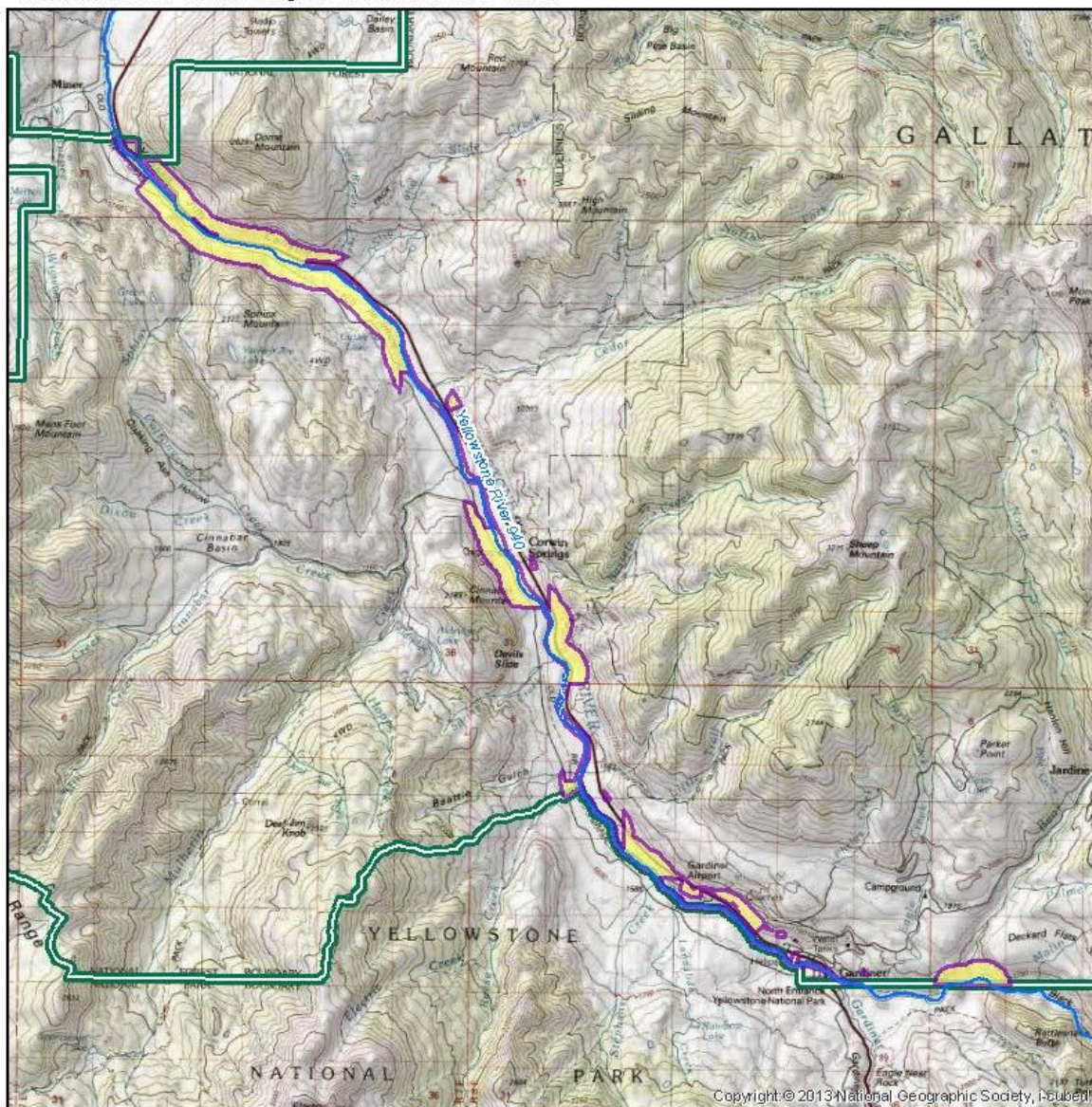
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Stream Name: Yellowstone River

Geographic Area: Absaroka Beartooths, Madison, Gallatin, and Henrys Lake Mountains

HUC10 Name: Hellroaring Creek-Yellowstone River



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— National Forest System Boundary

Tentative Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild



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